

A 'sanctuary' for medical pot
SF supervisors send veto-proof
symbolic resolution to mayor.

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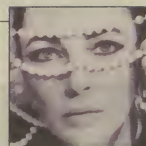
Say no to Big Pharma
Activists protest in Berkeley
over high drug prices, patents.

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Taylor-made disasters
'Liz: Unhinged' series begins
at Yerba Buena Center.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 49 • 6 December 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

A cheap Castro Christmas

Holiday gift guide for
those short on cash

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the holidays approaching and many people jittery instead of jolly this season, lavishing expensive gifts on loved ones may not be possible. While the myth is that gay men and lesbians have more money than their straight counterparts, the reality is that the gay community has been equally affected by the recession.

And jobs stereotypically held by queers — waiters, hotel workers, retail salespeople and flight attendants — have been some of the hardest hit by the downturn in the economy.

For those Santas having to tighten their belts this season, the following is a guide to gift-giving on a budget. Of course, one option is to run to **Cliff's Variety** at 479 Castro Street to buy materials to make your own homemade gifts.

But for those who aren't good with glue or glitter, the *Bay Area Reporter* went shopping in the Castro in search of somewhat tasteful, yet cheap, holiday gifts. The following is a list of items all priced at or under \$35 that have the potential to make great gifts for all those nice boys and girls on your list.

For the fashion conscious on your list, **Getups** at 600 Castro Street has 1970s-inspired knit hats with argyle and plaid designs. The clothing store is also stocking scarves. The hats and scarves range in price from \$15 to \$22. And for trend setters, or just bold dressers, vintage shirts can be bought for \$29.

Sure to please is a gift box from **Joseph Schmidt Confections** at 3489 16th Street. The San Francisco seller of sweets specializes in egg-shaped chocolate truffles. Not only do

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From left, Miles Barry, Suzanne Sandrue, and Kazuki Takemoto model scarves and knit hats from Getups at 19th and Castro.

Anthrax could have tainted thousands of letters

PWAs may want others to open mail, CDC chief says

by Alex Cukan and
Dave Haskell, UPI

In a telephone news conference Monday, December 3, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said tens of thousands of letters that traveled through the same New Jersey post office as the two anthrax-contaminated letters to two U.S. senators could potentially be at risk for cross-contamination.

"With each passing day the risk diminishes, but some with compromised immune systems may feel more confident by having someone else deal with the mail and every-

one may want to wash hands and keep mail away from the face," Koplan said. "There are several machines in a post office, the first cancels the stamp and that 'stamping' could cause dispersal of anthrax to other nearby sorting machines. ... There is a 'blender' effect moving spores around the facility."

People with compromised immune systems include those living with HIV/AIDS and the elderly.

It's not easy to infect someone with spores of anthrax but evidence indicates not much was involved in these cases, according to Koplan.

"But, there is by no means a definitive answer and there are a lot more questions left," he said. "People have a right to be concerned, people have a right to know what is going on — some people may feel better taking better precautions for peace of mind," Koplan added.

Trace amounts of anthrax on some mail sorting equipment were found at the Southern Connecticut Processing and Distribution Center in Wallingford, Connecticut, that handled mail for 94-year-old Otilie Lundgren of Oxford, who died November 21 from inhalation anthrax, and for a home in nearby Seymour, Connecticut, where a letter was also found with trace amounts of anthrax.

No anthrax-contaminated mail was found in Lundgren's home, but the bar code of the letter with one anthrax spore found at a nearby home indicates that the letter went through the same New Jersey postal facility as anthrax-contaminated letters addressed to Senators Tom Daschle, a Demo-

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Merry kitsch-mas

Trinkets and gadgets
galore for the holidays

by Katie Szymanski

Queer folks, understandably, tend to start their holiday shopping in the Castro, where one can pick up a leather whip, chocolate, and hip new threads, often all at the same store. But with the closing of the district's best-stocked pop culture shops (NaNa, Uncle Mame, and Pulp have all shut down in the last year), there remains a certain void in the neighborhood despite a wealth of offerings.

Luckily, San Francisco cannot exist without LGBT business, and an abundance of blatant and covert homo gifts can be found on all sides of town. Assuming that shoppers will continue to flock to the Castro for specialty and designer items, the following is a kitsch city tour of surrounding areas too often neglected by the local gay crowd.

Haight is love

Increasingly less popular with the LGBT population, the Haight tends to capitalize on the "Summer of Love" from a white male heterosexual viewpoint. But a few stores know that gay is good, and good for business, including the retro-chique **Revival of the Fittest**, 1701 Haight Street, at Cole. The shop is a fad collector's dream, from the \$1 historical and homo cards up front (wrestling, anyone?) to the beautiful Tiffany-esque mosaic lamps (\$44) to the glamorous cigarette and pill boxes (\$20 and up). Give a useful gift to a fetish-minded friend by purchasing one of several same-sex illustrated mouse pads (\$15), including a sporty rendition of a man in uniform throwing water at his near-naked comrade. Adorn your beau with a leather-studded bracelet watch (\$40) or chunky silver ring (\$15 and up).

Move a few doors down to **Happy Trails**, 1615 Haight, to complete your home and body decor search. Here you will find pulp-inspired light switch plates and lamps (\$10 and up), fruit

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Red Cross to help same-sex survivors

by Cynthia Laird

The American Red Cross on Tuesday, December 4, issued new guidelines calling for fair treatment for gay and lesbian families suffering from the loss of a loved one in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The nonprofit organization, which has collected millions of dollars in donations from around the country, issued written guidelines that clearly state same-sex survivors are eligible for September 11 family relief assistance. The agency will in-

corporate the guidelines into its training protocols for Family Services staff and plans to appoint a liaison to oversee the quality and consistency of service to the gay and lesbian community.

Representatives of the Empire State Pride Agenda, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project praised the American Red Cross for its decision. The announcement followed a meeting by representatives of the three gay rights groups with Bob Bender, chief executive officer of the American Red

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

SF Food Bank struggles to meet growing demands on program

by Matthew S. Bajko

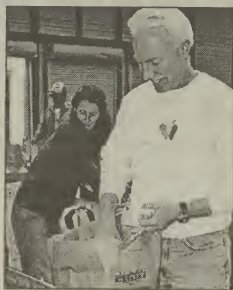
Due to myriad problems stemming from the recession and security concerns after the terror attacks of September 11, the San Francisco Food Bank is hurting for both food and financial donations this holiday season.

"We were 15 to 25 percent off from where we should be at the end of October," said Paul Ash, executive director of the food bank. "I hope it turns around in November and December, but I am skeptical."

Each year, the agency delivers 15 million pounds of donated food from growers, manufacturers, and grocers to people in need through food pantries, soup kitchens, child care centers, homeless shelters, senior centers, and other human service agencies with meal programs. Ash said he had hoped to raise an additional million and half more pounds of food this year.

"In June, we thought that was a realistic goal. If things keep going the way we are going, we will be a million pounds short of the goal," he said. "Our food needs increased at the same time our monetary resources have declined. It is very difficult to make something out of nothing, and that is what we are trying to do right now."

The food bank's difficulties pose potential problems for the 400 local agencies, including many gay and AIDS service organizations, that depend on the food bank to supply their clients with groceries and meals. Agencies such as the Maitri AIDS Hospice,



SF Food Bank's Paul Ash

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, Black Coalition on AIDS, Metropolitan Community Church's Simply Supper program, and the Gay Rescue Mission have all benefited from the food bank.

"Since we touch so many agencies, what happens to us tends to happen to them too," said Ash. "If we can't get food out to them, then they can't keep their food programs running."

Project Open Hand is the food bank's number one customer. The agency receives 1 million pounds of food a year from the food bank at a total cost of \$150,000.

"I don't see how we could do our food bank without them; 1,500 people a week shop in our grocery centers," said Tom Nolan, executive director of Project Open Hand.

Already, the food bank has had to raise the per-pound rate it charges other agencies by 25 percent. At the same time, Ash said donations from the food industry, such as companies like General

Mills and Kraft, are dropping off.

"Like most charities, we are facing a situation and a time we have never seen before. We are in uncertain territory," said Ash.

The agency has had problems this year with businesses and companies not participating in annual food drives during the holiday season. With security heightened at many buildings throughout the city, the food bank has been barred from placing its collection barrels by property owners fearful they pose a security risk.

"Other businesses have told us 'Our financial situation is pretty serious and we just don't need the distraction right now.' We are trying to get companies who have never had contact with to do a food drive this year," said Ash.

As donations fall off from donors, the number of people needing the food bank's assistance rises as more people become unemployed.

"It is hard to know how many families would take groceries if they were available. Most of our pantries either are full or have waiting lists," Ash said. "There is no capacity in the system for new folks."

While the holiday season puts more demand on the food bank, Ash said the agency needs help year round. Businesses and companies can still sign up to sponsor a food drive.

"We can even provide food-sniffing dogs to make sure just food is in the barrel," joked Ash.

Those interested in sponsoring a food drive or in making a donation can register online at www.sf-foodbank.org or by calling (415) 282-1900.

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COLAGE demonstrates and bowls for LGBT families, AOFC hosts party

by Matthew S. Bajko

Before they don their bowling shoes, members of COLAGE — Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere — will be demonstrating in support of queer families this weekend.

At noon on Saturday, December 8, COLAGE will rally against a recent court decision that has put the validity of California's second-parent adoptions into question. Speakers from the National Center for Lesbian Rights will address the rally and explain the impact of the ruling in the case.

The 4th District Court of Appeal in San Diego originally ruled in *Sharon S. v. Supreme Court* that second-parent adoptions were not legal under existing state laws. The

court recently revised its ruling to state its decision does not affect existing second-parent adoptions.

The court case involved a second-parent adoption between former partners Sharon Silverstein and Annette Friskopp. The women broke up before a second-parent adoption was finalized involving a child born to Silverstein in 1999 and raised by the couple.

Silverstein sued and her lawyers argued that second-parent adoptions are invalid. Two of the judges on the three-judge panel agreed and ruled in her favor. Since the decision, other gay and lesbian couples have feared their second-parent adoptions are now null and void.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden's AB25, which goes into effect January 1, includes a mech-

anism whereby same-sex couples can become parents of their partner's children through step-parent adoptions if they are registered with the state's domestic partner registry.

However, future second-parent adoptions may not be possible if the state Legislature does not enact new legislation legalizing the procedure. COLAGE Executive Director Felicia Park-Rodgers said the demonstration is needed to bring attention to the issue and to protect the community's right to define its families.

After the rally, COLAGE will host its sixth annual bowl-a-thon fundraiser. Past events have attracted more than 300 kids of lesbian, gay, bi, and trans parents, plus their friends and family.

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Neighborhood breaks ground for Pink Triangle Park memorial

by Matthew S. Bajko

To celebrate Human Rights Day, Eureka Valley residents and Mayor Willie Brown will break ground for a memorial at Pink Triangle Park on Monday, December 10. The triangular sculpture is the United States' first permanent memorial to gay men and lesbians killed by German leader Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime during World War II.

Monday's event coincides with the start of Hanukkah and the 53rd anniversary of the United Nations adopting a declaration of human rights. City Supervisors Tom Ammann and Mark Leno are also expected to be on hand for the ceremony at the small park at 17th and Market streets, in front of the former City Athletic Club.

Community organizers and project supporters will install a single granite pylon out of 15 pylons that will be installed in the shape of a triangle. San Francisco artists Susan Martin and Robert Bruce designed the memorial, which was selected by a community panel of judges on March 20.

The project cost \$60,000 and was paid for by donations and the city's neighborhood beautification program. Pauline Shaver, chair of the Pink Triangle Park and Memorial Committee, and Wendy Nelder, director of the mayor's neighborhood beautification fund, are scheduled to speak at the



A model of Pink Triangle Park

groundbreaking.

The memorial is in addition to 100 rose bushes already planted on the approximately 1,000 square foot parcel of land owned by the city's Department of Public Works. Area residents planted the first roses on October 21, 2000 as a way to clean up and reclaim the abandoned lot.

"When we started a year ago, it was a forlorn, abandoned pile of dirt," said Gustavo Serina, president-elect of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association.

In April of 2000, area resident Joe Foster visited the Schwules Museum, a gay museum in Berlin, and saw an exhibit on gay and lesbian victims of Hitler's concentration camps. That visit sparked the

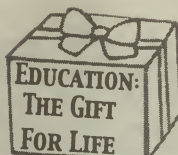
idea for Pink Triangle Park, which he shared with neighbors.

At the International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival that June, Foster and Herb Cohn asked moviegoers waiting in line for the film *Paraphrase 175*, a documentary dealing with atrocities endured by gays and lesbians under the Nazis, to sign a petition supporting the plan. Eventually more than 100 people signed the petition asking the city to develop the lot into a park.

"What started us on this theme is that people liked the idea of dedicating that space so close to Harvey Milk Plaza to the victims of discrimination," said Foster.

The groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. ▼

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Credit Course Title	CRN#	Days	Times	Location/Room
Anthropology of Homosexuality	31800	M	6-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Career/Life Planning	34302	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 1A
College Success	35408	TTh	9-10:30 A.M.	1800 Market 304
Computer Apps for Business	35432	TTh	9-12 NOON	1800 Market 306
Computer Apps for Business	35460	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
English (Reading/Composition)	35458	TTh	10:30-12:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
GLBT Communities of Color	34795	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 107
History Homosexuality in Film	34449	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 201
Holistic Health Practices	30995	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 110
Homosexuality Recent Cinema	34450	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 212
Les/Gay American Art/Culture	35414	TTh	11-12:30 P.M.	50 Phelan A314
Les/Gay Culture (Transgender)	30404	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Men's Health Issues	30598	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 1A
Photography for the Enthusiast	35478	S	9:30-11:30 A.M.	1220 Noe 236
Psychology (General)	35454	MW	9-10:30 A.M.	1800 Market 304
Public Relations Fundamentals	33400	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 308
Women and Film	34395	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 107
Women and Mass Media	35327	S	10-1 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Women's Health Issues	35222	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 203
Word Processing	35462	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Noncredit Course Title	CRN#	Days	Times	Location/Room
ESL Intermediate 5-8 Multilevel	43583	M-Th	6:30-9 P.M.	1800 Market
Senior Adventures-Internet	43860	W	1-4 P.M.	1800 Market
Understanding Changing Times	43620	S	1-3 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Wellness Exercise	43621	W	12-1 P.M.	1800 Market 304

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SF likely to be a 'sanctuary' for medical marijuana users

by Joe Dignan

With a veto-proof resolution headed for the mayor's desk, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Monday, December 3 declared the city to be what Supervisor Mark Leno terms a "sanctuary" for medical cannabis.

Leno's legislation is, in part, a reaction to recent federal raids on pot clubs in Southern California and elsewhere around the state. What it basically says to the federal government is, "Don't even think of troubling our medical cannabis clubs, patients, and caregivers."

The legislation was co-sponsored by nine of the 11 board

members. At the meeting, only Supervisor Tony Hall dissented in the 10-1 vote.

Leno said that his measure will be mainly symbolic.

He said that despite the passage of Proposition 215 in 1996, which provided a mechanism for recommendations of marijuana by physicians in California, federal law still classifies pot as a Schedule I narcotic, in the same category as heroin.

That conflict between state and federal law has stymied the implementation of Proposition 215, also known as the California Compassionate Use Act.

Because of the conflict, because of the vague wording of the proposition itself, and because of a lack of clear direction from the state attorney general's office, officials in California counties have been forced to craft individual interpretations and set their own standards for what constitutes reasonable medicinal marijuana use.

At a meeting last week of the board's Public Health and Environment Committee, which heard the legislation first, Terence Hallinan said, "As long as I am the district attorney of San Francisco, the District Attorney's office will never harass doctors or patients."

The San Francisco Police Department published a policy in February which provides that suspects who are apprehended with

marijuana in their possession are to be released — and their pot returned to them — if the officer has a reasonable belief that the marijuana is for medical purposes.

The federal government remains determined that there is no difference between medical necessity and getting stoned for fun.

"Our job is to enforce the drug laws of the United States," said Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Rich Meyer. "According to the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana is a Schedule I drug. That means it has no medical value and a high potential for abuse."

Meyer allowed that the DEA is more interested in sellers of marijuana than pot smokers. "We target large scale distributors," he said. "We see users as victims of drug trafficking. Our hearts go out to those people who are sick, but we think marijuana is even more harmful to them than to other people."

Meyer would not comment on whether DEA is planning raids on San Francisco's medical marijuana clubs.

At the supervisors' committee hearing, representatives of Martin dePorres, a Catholic Charities service center on Divisadero Street, said that doctors are afraid to recommend marijuana for their patients because of its questionable legal status.

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Feds allow UCSD pot study

by Liz Highleyman

Last Wednesday, November 28, the federal government gave researchers at the University of California at San Diego final approval to conduct a study of medical marijuana.

The study, which will look at the effects of cannabis on neural conditions such as multiple sclerosis and AIDS-related neuropathy, will be conducted by two neurology professors at the university.

Multiple sclerosis — along with nausea and loss of appetite — has long been among the conditions anecdotally reported to improve with marijuana use, and several medical cannabis buyers clubs provide the herb for this indication. A multiple sclerosis patient was among the few who received medicinal cannabis as part of a now-ended compassionate use investigational new drug program run by the Department of Health and Human Services.

A study currently under way in San Mateo County is looking at the effect of marijuana on nerve pain and numbness in the feet and hands in people with AIDS taking antiretroviral therapy; certain anti-HIV drugs are associated with neurological problems. The study, in which participants are given cannabis provided by the

federal government, is the nation's first locally funded medical marijuana study. In addition, researchers in Canada are studying a cannabis extract as a treatment for multiple sclerosis and chronic pain related to spinal cord injury.

The new study will be the first to be conducted by UCSD's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, which was created by the California Legislature in 1999. Other federally approved cannabis research is conducted at the University of California at San Francisco, led by Dr. Don Abrams.

In approving the research, the Drug Enforcement Administration said it wanted to introduce science into the medical marijuana debate.

"The question of whether marijuana has any legitimate medical purpose should be determined by sound science and medicine," said DEA chief Asa Hutchinson.

Congress has declared that cannabis has no accepted medical use, a position upheld by the Supreme Court last May. Various groups, including the Institute of Medicine, have found that past research indicates that the herb has medicinal benefits. Controlled studies of medical marijuana are scarce because the federal government has historically been reluctant to allow such research to go forward. ▼

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Herrera for city attorney

We suspect that most San Franciscans aren't paying too much attention to the December 11 runoff for city attorney – but they should. For LGBT voters in particular, the choice is clear and we unequivocally urge people to vote for Dennis Herrera.

Herrera, former president of the Police Commission and an attorney, has what it takes to continue the public interest work for which the San Francisco City Attorney's office has become well-known. Outgoing City Attorney Louise Renne has endorsed Herrera, as has every gay and lesbian elected official in the city. Notably, the city's two LGBT Democratic clubs also support Herrera.

Recently Herrera has won over progressive voters who may have backed other candidates in last month's election. Herrera attributed this support to the fact that progressives looked at his record and decided that he is a "fair-minded guy." We agree.

The city attorney is arguably the second most important elected position, just after mayor. During her long tenure, Renne fought against Big Tobacco and gun manufacturers; her office stood firmly behind San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance. The law, which requires companies that do business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offer those benefits to employee's spouses, has resulted in thousands of businesses offering such programs, thereby advancing equality for same-sex couples. The ordinance is still tied up in court with United Airlines continuing its appeal against the city over the law, despite offering some benefits under the ordinance to its eligible workers. It is a testament to the activists who drafted the law, the Board of Supervisors which passed it, and Mayor Brown who signed it that the ordinance has so far withstood every court challenge brought by United Airlines and other businesses that are represented by lawyers affiliated with Christian conservative Pat Robertson.

Herrera's opponent in Tuesday's runoff, former deputy mayor Jim Lazarus, took a \$500 campaign contribution (the maximum allowed under city law) from United Airlines a couple of months ago. So, as gay rights ac-

tivists have pointed out, Lazarus took money from a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against the city, one which the City Attorney's office is defending. How can Lazarus be expected to maintain the high caliber defense of the equal benefits ordinance when he took money from the company fighting against it?

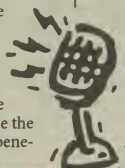
We spoke with Herrera the other day, and he assured us – as he has stated repeatedly during the campaign – that he would continue the outstanding defense of the equal benefits ordinance should he be elected: "I will vigilantly defend that," he said.

In fact, Herrera has pledged to build on the successes of the City Attorney's office. As an office of more than 300 lawyers and legal support staff, the city attorney provides impartial legal services to the mayor, Board of Supervisors, the school district, and the city's 94 departments, boards, commissions, and offices.

Herrera has legal and administrative skills that would serve the city well. He has experience managing a large staff from his stint in the U.S. Maritime Administration under former Transportation Secretary Federico Peña. There, he rose to chief of staff, directing some 1,000 employees and supervising the agency's daily operations.

Herrera offers a vision that is in line with most San Franciscans. We are often on the cutting edge of legal matters, with the fight against Big Tobacco and the equal benefits ordinance being just two examples. We are deeply concerned that if Lazarus is elected, the City Attorney's office will take a less active role in fighting for the rights of all city residents and that landmark legislation might not get the defense it deserves if challenged in court.

This Tuesday, December 11, vote for Dennis Herrera for city attorney. ▼



Editorial



Get real about homelessness

by Arthur Evans

The San Francisco Chronicle recently ran some eye-popping articles on homelessness. It turns out the city spends \$200,000,000 a year on the problem, or more than \$22,000 an hour. Yet homelessness here is as bad now as it's ever been. Just take a stroll around the Castro and see for yourself.

What went wrong? A big part of the problem is confusion and denial about who "the homeless" are. In reality, this term is ambiguous and covers different kinds of people. Understanding the differences will help us come up with more realistic solutions.

One kind of homeless person consists of San Francisco residents who become homeless through some calamity. For example, your landlord uses the Ellis Act to evict you. Or AIDS eats up your financial resources, and you can no longer pay your rent. Or a fire in your building burns you out. Where can you turn for help?

There's a second kind of homeless person, very different from the first. This group consists of itinerant addicts and alcoholics who wander from city to city. They come from all social classes, rich and poor, live on the streets, and sell drugs in order to pay for their addictions. They are part of a nomadic narcoculture with its own toxic mores.

A third kind of homeless person consists of those who are mentally dysfunctional. Some years ago, mental health reformers convinced many states to shut down their asylums, releasing residents into the general population. The reformers expected that local communities would take up the slack. Few did. Now thousands of hapless souls wander about unable to attend to their most basic needs.

The Chronicle estimates that 70 percent of the homeless here belong to the second or third categories, or both. This stark fact has implications for the city's resources and also for life on the street. For example, 20 percent of ambulance trips to the city's emergency rooms involve homeless drunks. Drug overdose is the leading cause of death among the homeless. The homeless of the second and third kind compete with the homeless of the first kind for available social services.

So what should we do? At least the following:

- Enforce a significant residency requirement for access to the fullest social services in the city. We can't solve the homeless problem for all America. We can do something for San Franciscans. If we try to do more than that, we will be inundated with the homeless from all over the country, as is already happening. No city, regardless of its resources, can withstand such an onslaught.

- Create shelters that are clean and well run, and that have showers and laundry facilities. The city has reduced overall shelter space in recent years. Conditions in the shelters that remain are often disgraceful. You find used needles on shower floors, filthy toilets, and vermin-infested beds. Residents fear for their safety. People would rather sleep under a highway overpass than in such degradation. Who can blame them? Ironically, some homeless advocates scoff at shelters, saying the solution is to build affordable housing. Heaven knows the city could use more of that. But addicts and the mentally dysfunctional, if left to themselves, quickly lose even affordable housing, and end up on the streets again.

- Provide treatment on demand to addicts and alcoholics. At some point in their lives, most addicts and alcoholics are open to treatment. But when there are long waiting lists, the opportunity slips by. Everybody loses. Addiction should not be treated as a crime. On the other hand, being addicted is no excuse for committing a crime.

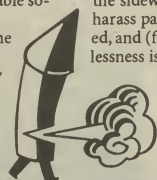
- Enforce the law. People who sell drugs, get drunk in public, urinate and defecate on the sidewalk, violate the public peace, and harass passersby should be cited, prosecuted, and (for repeat offenders) jailed. Homelessness is not a crime. But homelessness is no excuse for lawlessness, either. San Francisco residents have a right to insist that their neighborhoods be safe, clean, and peaceful. Without accountability, there is no community.

- Bring back some type of mental asylum, both in the city and the state. Some people are not capable of functioning on their own and never will be. That's a fact of life, and we have to face up to it.

- Most important of all, open up public dialogue on the issue. Some homeless advocates have adopted a rigid party line. They demonize anybody who would dare disagree with them in any detail. But nobody has a corner on the truth when it comes to an issue as complicated as homelessness. Every person of good will should get a fair hearing for his or her ideas. We should invite people into the public discourse, not hound them out as heretics.

Admittedly, even if the city adopted each of the above recommendations, much would remain to do. But at least we would take the first steps toward sanity. Why not do that? ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Coates missed something

This is regarding Tom Coates's recent interview and the coverage ["Coates drops HIV prevention bombshell," November 29]. I am dismayed that Coates completely ignored one very important fact that most doctors and some researchers are coming to terms with: the HIV drugs are not a long-term solution. The second wave of AIDS deaths will be from aging men taking too many medications. To agree with the perception that the disease is no longer bad shows limited vision. The reason HIV prevention must continue is simple: one cannot expect to become HIV-positive and take the current HIV meds for 20 years – surviving intact to retirement age. Tom, those buff bodies have sunken cheeks, visceral abdominal fat (not good), hip replacements, and dangerous cardiac problems.

Jeff Getty
Survive AIDS

No moral vision, please

Thank you for your recent coverage of the Stop AIDS Project debacle ["Stop AIDS says it's in compliance with feds," November 22].

As a health educator and HIV prevention worker I am consistently shocked by politicians who attempt to enhance their visibility by undermining "sexually explicit" public health programs and services that have been proven to decrease the spread of HIV and other STDs.

I am reminded once again of former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's now famous line that "(we) don't have the luxury" to impose a limited moral vision when people are dying.

Catherine Swanson
Oakland, California

A call to arms against ACT UP/SF

On the back page of the November 22 B.A.R. was a "community service" ad denouncing Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, chief of the San Francisco STD Control Unit, for his extreme views on HIV, STDs, and gay men. While I'm no fan of his and think his many stupid remarks should be cause for great alarm, I am more disgusted and repulsed that the freakish group of misfits known as ACT UP/San Francisco has used this as an excuse to supposedly speak for our community. What a joke. These idiots could care less about anybody or anything except promoting their extreme, distorted, and moronic views on HIV (based on the most laughable science imaginable, by the way). I, for one, refuse to be represented by these fools. They absolutely do not speak for this community and they never will. Even in their wildest dreams, they would be hard-pressed to find anyone outside their small band of followers to stand with them and support their dangerous views. It's about time that the GLBT community in San Francisco stand up and make it clear that they do not and will not ever speak for us. It is time that we wake up to the significant threats to our health and civil liberties that they, and their screeching friend Michael Petrelis, pose. For those of you living with HIV/AIDS: if these attention-starved, self-hating, homophobic, racist, and sexist people get their way, you can kiss all your HIV services goodbye. You'll be back on the street, without medicine or medical care. If you don't believe me watch as they get in bed with the likes of Jesse Helms, the Family Research Council, and other conservative, right-wing Republican senators and legislators across the country to defund not just HIV prevention, but the entire Ryan White CARE Act as well. As far as I'm concerned, ACT UP/SF and Michael Petrelis should be regarded as terrorists and should be subjected to all available anti-terrorist laws. Everything should be done to reveal where their funding is coming from, who is financially supporting them, and whether the IRS is aware of the cash that seems to be so freely flowing through their drug store.

If making alleged death threats to public officials isn't enough to subject them to these measures, then threatening the health, well-being, and civil rights of thousands of San Franciscans living with HIV and benefiting from HIV prevention and direct care services should be. Our community should be on fire with outrage and disgust. The fact that Michael Petrelis has nearly had the Stop AIDS Project defunded and that ACT UP/San Francisco is making repeated alleged death threats to members of our community should be a call to arms for everyone who cares at all about our future. Don't let any of them fool you – they do not care about you, your health, or your civil rights – they care only about spewing their hate, violence, and extreme views as far and wide as possible. Are Michael Petrelis and ACT UP/San Francisco who you want representing you to this city, the country, to Congress, and to the world?

It is time to treat these pathetic creeps like the terrorists that they are.

Scott Palmer
San Francisco

Klausner's the best

I now rate your publication next to the *Weekly World News* and the *National Enquirer* upon reading the full page ad [November 22] falsely accusing Dr. Jef-

frey Klausner of numerous untruths. It is easy to twist someone's words just to have an opportunity to ACT UP, which unfortunately, a select few in our gay community take pleasure in.

The truth about Jeff Klausner is completely the opposite of what the malicious and sensational ad reads. Dr. Klausner has been my primary care AIDS/cancer physician for nearly seven years.

There is nothing homophobic about him, he promotes safe sex, which is his job and moral duty. He has never promoted abstinence or condemned sex between same-sex partners. He is compassionate, and during an appointment answers all of my questions regardless of the time involved. On one occasion he made a phone call to me from out of state to see how I was doing when I was very ill. I have a complex medical regimen and wouldn't want another physician to be in charge.

Doctors like Jeff Klausner are rare these days. He is the best.

Kurt Van Wie
San Francisco

Mean-spirited remarks

I am writing your paper in regard to Wayne Friday's mean-spirited remarks about Assemblywoman Carole Migden [Our Man Friday, November 29]. While I also sometimes disagree with Assemblywoman Migden, I feel it is out of bounds to make nasty, personal attacks.

As a lesbian in the Assembly who very effectively carried our agenda in Sacramento, she deserves better. My guess is that Mr. Friday is still angry that she chose to support Harry Britt over Mark Leno for state Assembly. Nonetheless, it makes your paper look petty when someone who has done so much for our community is personally attacked. She gets enough personal attacks from the far-right in our state for her work on our behalf.

Robert Haaland, Vice President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

'California revolution'?

"Time to finally get rid of the national Electoral College," remarks Wayne Friday [Our Man Friday, November 22]. He doesn't tell lay readers that small states would prevent abolition. Nor does he mention the democratic solution which even small states could live with – apportioning each state's electors among its congressional districts, plus two at large. States can do this now, and two small states already do so.

If any big state did this, each of its congressional districts would gain national importance, as an electoral prize worth fighting for. Our state, acting alone, could launch a "California Revolution," which would radically change the nature of national politics. No longer could the Eastern and Central time zones decide the presidency early in the evening, before our polling places close, discouraging many Californians from voting at all. Instead, the various California districts would be crucial. Most districts would be vigorously contested by the two major campaigns. On the fringes, a few left-wing districts might choose Green electors, while a few right-wing districts might choose Libertarians. Nobody could ever take California for granted again.

Such grassroots democracy would energize local groups and individuals. Thereby it would threaten machine politicians as a class, who would prevent the state Legislature from passing it. So it's up to us, we the people, to put this rational reform on the ballot by initiative petition.

The present rigged system disgusts and repels around half of adult citizens, especially the young. If election results more closely resembled the intentions of voters, then more people might bother to vote.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Thanks for support

I would like to take a moment and thank those who have shown their support of the Tony deBlase Scholarship Project, commonly known as the Leather Scholarship. In just over three months we have been able to raise \$4,000 toward our goal of \$25,000, which will create the scholarship's endowment. The plan is to first establish the endowment from which the interest will be granted to students entering fields of sex research, education, therapy, and other studies or projects to further the understanding of human sexuality. Another feature of this project is that it is being built with grassroots support, relying on a diverse, community-based set of donations. We want to create the opportunity for the many people who were touched by Tony's vision to help continue his work far into the future. Another success of this project is that it has inspired others who have taken the idea and created their own scholarships that together will be a powerful investment in our future. The Tony deBlase scholarship is being managed by the Pride Foundation, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that

next page ►

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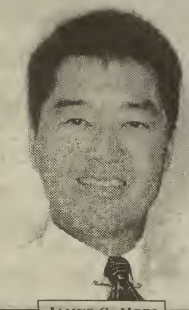
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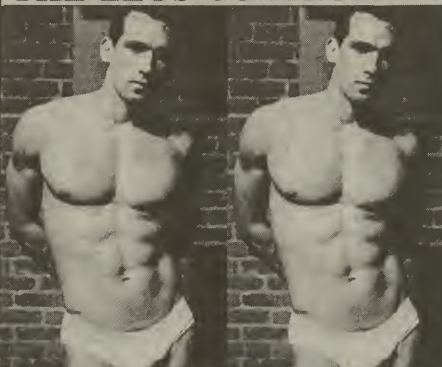
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Mailstrom

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has a long history of a positive relationship with the leather community. For more information on how you can participate, please visit the Web site at www.leatherdaddy.com/scholarship.

Aubrey H. Sparks
Seattle, Washington

Bombs are not the answer

This is in response to Vince Quackenbush's opinion piece, "No justice, no peace" in the November 22 issue.

In the essay, Mr. Quackenbush failed to back up the subhead of his piece, "Why LGBT men, women should support the war" with any reasons specifically pertaining to the "gay community." I am still unsure why I, being a gay man, should support this bombing campaign against a country and people who have nothing to do with the attacks of September 11. Here are a few reasons why I think all Americans, not just LGBT men and women, should not support the war in Afghanistan:

Osama bin Laden is not an Afghan. He is Saudi Arabian.

The Taliban is not al Qaeda. The Taliban is a government, which replaced the equally oppressive Northern Alliance.

The people of Afghanistan, the ones mainly affected by our bombing campaign, are not the terrorists. And finally, bombs do not equal justice.

Craig M. Corpora
San Francisco

Olympic concerns

Thanks to letter writer Rebecca Woo [Mailstrom, November 22] for reminding us of the U.S. Olympic Committee's shameful treatment of the late Dr. Tom Waddell and his proposed "Gay Olympics" (now the Gay Games after a successful lawsuit by the committee).

It gets worse.

The Salt Lake City Olympic Committee (SLOC) – a separate entity from the U.S. Olympic Committee – is currently planning an "Olympic Rodeo" as part of the February 2002 Winter Olympics in that city. Though the committee may be reluctant to associate its good name with a bunch of sissies, they apparently have no problem associating that same name with a bunch of documented animal abusers. Every major animal welfare organization in the U.S. condemns rodeos for their inherent cruelty, and for the negative message that such a violent activity sends to society at large, particularly to impressionable young children. (Only two countries are scheduled to compete, the U.S. and Canada.)

It should be noted that the president of the SLOC is Mitt Romney, son of the former Michigan governor. An August 2001 biography noted that Mr. Romney also serves on the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America, a notoriously homophobic organization, and is the founder of Bain Capital Inc., with revenues of some \$13 billion.

It's no coincidence that both the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association are headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Eric Mills, Coordinator
Action for Animals
Oakland, California

Concerns over DP law

The recent article on the passage of the domestic partner legislation (Assembly Bill 25) correctly listed many new benefits it provided to California gay and lesbian partners. Unfortunately one of its major benefit provisions – intestate succession – was dropped from the law at the last moment before its passage. This points out the need for every gay person to have a will or trust. This is just as important now as before the law was passed.

The manner in which that provision was dropped from the law, has itself created other great problems with the law. A domestic partner won't necessarily get the right to sue for wrongful death, and many gay people will be wrongly led to believe that their domestic partner can automatically inherit their property without a will.

Intestate succession is the legal term for the law that determines who inherits property if someone dies without a will. In California, if a single person dies without a will, his property goes to his children if he has any, and if not, to his parents. What happens to the property of a married person is much more complicated, because of the concept of "community property." A married person may own both community property and "separate property." For 90 percent of married people, almost everything they own is community property. A married person's community property is inherited by their spouse.

Migden's bill provided that a domestic partner's separate property only, would be treated like the sep-

arate property of a married person. A domestic partner would inherit only one-third of this property if there was no will. The rest would go to the children, parents, or brothers and sisters. Of course, even this new "right" would equal only a tiny fraction of the inheritance rights of married people, since most of their property isn't separate property, but community property (such as their biggest asset – a house). It is the first example of how poorly the law was written.

In dropping this provision of the law, the Legislature messed up the provision giving a domestic partner the right to sue for wrongful death. (The decision in the Diane Whipple case is only a Superior Court decision, and is likely to be overturned by the Court of Appeal.)

This law gives domestic partners the right to sue for emotional distress caused by injury to a domestic partner. This was done very simply by inserting a new section in the code that simply said that a domestic partner has this right. Had the bill done the same thing with the right to sue for wrongful death, there would be no problem. Very unwisely, the bill's writer chose a different technique to give domestic partners the right to sue for wrongful death. The right to sue for wrongful death was tied to the right to inherit property. The law now literally reads that if someone with children (or descendants) dies, a domestic partner can sue for wrongful death, but not if there are no children or other descendants. If there are no descendants, the people who can sue are those "who would be entitled to the property of the decedent by intestate succession."

Since the provision regarding intestate succession was dropped from the law, a domestic partner of someone without children is not going to be able to sue for wrongful death without winning a difficult fight in the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court. It would have to be proved that the law is ambiguous, and that the Legislature did not mean what it said.

As an attorney who has argued a number of cases of statutory interpretation in the appellate courts, I can state that it is by no means a forgone conclusion that the domestic partner would win this case. A court can choose either to implement what it thought the Legislature intended, or to apply a law as it is literally written. It can reasonably base its conclusions on any of several conflicting principles, as it chooses. Most of the members of the Supreme Court are Wilson appointees, and could hardly be said to have a liberal attitude toward the extension of new rights.

The other problem with the law is that it will lead many unsuspecting gay people to believe that they do not need a will, because their domestic partner will automatically inherit their property. They will be wrong.

The Legislature could correct these unfortunate mistakes, although any corrections would not take effect for another year. More importantly, the rights granted to domestic partners are still meager in comparison to the rights of married people. Domestic partners should have the right to inherit without a will, and should be entitled to inherit a lot more than just the small portion of property that Migden's bill originally would have granted.

More importantly for gay and lesbian people, and something which cannot be accomplished by writing a will, is having the right to transfer property to your domestic partner without having it reassessed under Proposition 13. Married people have this right. It means a lot in terms of money.

Since we have had so much appreciation in real estate, a domestic partner gets the unpleasant surprise a year after the death of a partner, that the property tax bill is now several times what it was before the death. This does not happen to married people. It should not happen to domestic partners. It should be covered in a domestic partners law.

Richard Starkeson
San Francisco

Disputes images in ads

[The following was sent to the Alameda County Public Health Department.]

I am concerned about an ad of yours that I have seen posted in downtown Oakland urging people to get tested for HIV. The slogan reads, "Been there? Done that?" Pictured are three people. A man embraces a woman with one arm while they look into each other's eyes. But his other arm is extended some distance to the side where he holds hands with another man. The man holding and smiling at the woman looks professional in a suit and tie. The other man is of slighter build and is dressed for play in tight leather pants and a bandanna around his head but he is not smiling.

I am very offended by this ad. It implies that gay men are the ones that spread AIDS. It implies that heterosexuality is the preferred orientation. It implies that straight men are the ones that make something of themselves.

I appreciate that you are testing for HIV and educating people but with this ad you are on the wrong track. I think it should be replaced with another one that doesn't involve gay men.

Larry Schmidt
Oakland, California

POLITICS

Elect Dennis Herrera as city attorney

by Wayne Friday

This Tuesday, December 11, San Francisco voters will go to the polls once again in a runoff election to elect a new city attorney, a position many agree is among the most important in city government, second only to that of the mayor.

The San Francisco Democratic Party, the city's progressive community, and certainly, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community has united solidly behind **Dennis Herrera**, a bright, young pro-gay attorney in the single-issue election. It is very important that we make a point of getting out on Tuesday to vote. The election experts are predicting a possible all-time low voter turnout on Tuesday, with perhaps as few as 20 percent of the voters bothering to cast ballots.

Herrera's opponent in this election, the official candidate of the S.F. Republican Party, is indeed counting on a low voter turnout since he has targeted the conservative west of Twin Peaks and the Republican Pacific Heights areas with a well-financed absentee ballot effort. It is no secret that **Jim Lazarus**'s greatest fear this Tuesday is that the progressive, and LGBT communities take the time to go vote. If we fail to vote, Lazarus, with his core conservative and Republican base, would likely win the low turnout election; Lazarus and his Republican supporters are counting on that to happen.

We cannot allow that to happen. Let me put it as clearly as I can - Dennis Herrera is a proven friend of our community; Jim Lazarus, unfortunately, is not.

Herrera has the endorsement of every elected gay and lesbian public official in the city, including Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, Treasurer **Susan Leal**, Supervisors **Tom Ammiano** and **Mark Leno**, College Board Trustee **Lawrence Wong**, and both the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

Herrera also has the endorsement of respected leaders like Supervisors **Sophie Maxwell**, **Jake McGoldrick**, **Aaron Peskin**, and former Supervisor **Angela Alioto**, as well as former Lieutenant Governor **Leo McCarthy**, former District Attorney **Arlo Smith**, and retiring City Attorney **Louise Renne**.

It should also be noted that Herrera's even-handed fairness as a former president of the Police Commission has earned him the endorsements of both the S.F. Police Officers Association (POA) and **Mary C. Dunlap**, the respected director of the Office of Citizens' Complaints.

Herrera, unlike his Republican-sponsored opponent, has been a proven friend of our community. He has campaigned for and financially supported ballot issues supporting the LGBT community, and, while president of the Police Commission, fought to install a plan to overhaul and improve many issues important to our community such as one that

improves how the Police Department interacts with the transgendered community. Herrera has been there for us - consistently. It is our turn on Tuesday to stand with him.

Herrera's opponent, however, offers our community this kind of record: As a candidate for supervisor in 1990, Lazarus opposed the entire concept of domestic partnership and his record of support for the gay community since then shows no improvement. A current example of his insensitivity to the LGBT community comes in accepting a political contribution (\$500, the maximum allowed by law) from United Airlines, a

named plaintiff in the lawsuit to overturn the equal benefits ordinance. The ordinance is law in San Francisco but is currently being appealed by United Airlines and others (the ordinance is being defended by the City Attorney's office) in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

As longtime gay activist **Jeff Sheehy** put it recently: "What kind of defense of this equal benefits law can we expect when the officer of the city charged with defending it takes a maximum campaign donation from a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the city?"

Herrera and his wife, **Anne**, have also stood strong with us in the fight against the AIDS epidemic; he has been there both with his time and his money. In contrast, during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, former Supervisor **Harry Britt** sought to change language defining AIDS as a "medical condition" to "physical condition" and was met with a negative reaction from Lazarus. According to a 1987 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Britt wanted the change to provide AIDS patients with the same state and federal protections guaranteed to disabled people. Lazarus ruled out the change. "AIDS is a disease, not a handicap," the paper quoted him as saying.

The election on Tuesday for city attorney couldn't be more simple - Dennis Herrera, the Democratic Party candidate, is a proven friend of our community; Jim Lazarus, the Republican Party-endorsed candidate, is not our community's friend. Please, whatever else you find time to do this Tuesday, get to the polls and vote - it is so very important. We have a chance to elect a good friend as our next city attorney - that friend is Dennis Herrera.

Politics and people

Ah, the San Francisco Elections Department: Weeks after the November 6 election, the Coast Guard fished the tops of eight ballot boxes out of San Francisco Bay. Then, a couple of days later, 240 uncounted ballots were found stuck in voting machines. And the *Examiner* asks, "Can't those guys get anything right?" Of course not. And don't expect them to either. All of them should be fired, starting with City Administrator **Bill Lee**.

The Democratic Women's Forum is being pretty selective about its endorsements (the group bypassed several of them



Dennis Herrera

altogether) but did endorse Assessor **Doris Ward** for re-election and Supervisor **Mark Leno** for Assembly in the 13th District. Leno also got the nod from the California Professional Firefighters Association last week.

Still smarting over losing two governor's offices to Democrats in the November 6 election, the National Republican Committee chairman **Jim Gilmore** (also the current Virginia governor) took the hint and stepped aside this week as GOP party boss. Gilmore was unable to even hold the governor's office in his home state of Virginia - it went Democratic along with New Jersey last month. **George W. Bush** and his political guru **Karl Rove** this week tapped former Montana Governor **Marc Racicot** as the next Republican Party chair.

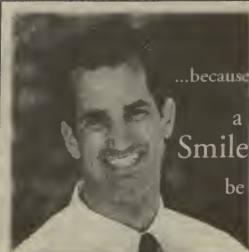
The Log Cabin Club of San Francisco will hold its annual holiday awards dinner December 18 at Carta Restaurant, 1760 Market Street - \$50; cocktails, 6:30; dinner 7:30. *San Francisco Chronicle* political columnist **Debra Saunders** will be guest speaker and the GOP club will present its **Leonard Matlovich** Defender of Freedom and **Ron Kershaw** Service to the Community awards (786-8131 for tax and info).

Santa Rosa Mayor **Michael Martini** is challenging U.S. Representative **Lynn Woolsey** (D-Petaluma) in the 6th Congressional District Democratic primary next March; Martini is using Woolsey's vote against an anti-terrorism bill as his main issue, and although Woolsey has never had a strong primary or general election challenge, the Santa Rosa mayor could provide her with one. Still, despite what some of her own supporters feel was not a smart vote, put your money on Woolsey in this one.

Houston Mayor **Lee Brown**, that city's first black in that office, was re-elected Saturday as mayor of the nation's fourth largest city. After the Bush family had attempted to turn the officially non-partisan city election into a party political contest by endorsing the conservative Republican, **Orlando Sanchez**, Brown, a Democrat, won the runoff election by successfully using a recorded message to voters from former President **Bill Clinton**.

In California's 18th Congressional District, well-known businessman **Tom Ciccarella** and state Senator **Jim Costa** (D-Fresno) have both dropped out of the Democratic primary in support of Assemblyman **Dennis Cardoza**, fearing that incumbent Represent-

page 11 ►



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Broadway's 'lavender marriages'

by Paula Martinac

Today, stage actors like Cherry Jones and Nathan Lane can be openly gay and enjoy successful careers. So, too, can gay directors and playwrights. But in the early decades of the 20th century, the closet doors of Broadway were firmly shut, and many lesbian and gay stage personalities entered into "lavender marriages," choosing to wed each other to hide their same-sex proclivities.

One example was "the first lady of the American theater," actor Katharine Cornell, and her husband, director Guthrie McClintic. When Cornell made her Broadway debut in 1921 in *Nice People*, her performance caught the eye of McClintic, who made a note to himself about Cornell's acting ability: "Interesting. Monotonous. Watch."

Within a few months, the two married and remained together until McClintic's death in 1961. During that 40-year period, McClintic directed his wife in such theatrical triumphs as *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, *Candida*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. When he died, Cornell retired from the stage.

To the public, Cornell and McClintic looked like a committed straight couple who were partners in both love and work. But colleagues of "Kit and Guth" knew a different side of their relationship. According to the backstage

grapevine, the two moved into separate bedrooms not long after they wed and followed completely different emotional paths.

For Cornell, that meant passionate friendships with several women in succession – first with Gertrude Macy, her longtime secretary and assistant, from whom she was said to be inseparable; and later with Nancy Hamilton, a playwright. An actor who knew Cornell once told gay writer Paul Monette (a friend of Macy's) that the two women were the "great loves" of Cornell's life.

McClintic's same-sex relationships tended to be brief flings, often with young men who worked with him either as actors or backstage hands. An accommodating wife, Cornell often invited McClintic's young men for dinner or weekend visits.

Two of Cornell and McClintic's contemporaries, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, also entered into a lavender union. British-born Fontanne came to New York in 1916 and, a year later, met and became friends with Lunt, an American actor five years her junior. They married in 1922, and, from that moment on, always acted together, becoming the most famous theatrical duo in history. So famous and inseparable were they that, in 1958, a Broadway theater was named in their joint honor; the Lunt-Fontanne is still in operation on 46th Street.

Their marriage, which lasted

55 years, seems to have been primarily a savvy career move. Playwright Noel Coward, himself a gay man, was an intimate of "the Lunts" (as they were known) and told the couple's biographer that their marriage had been part of a plan to become "idols of the public" – and perhaps to surpass their rivals, the Barrymores.

Lunt and Fontanne were intensely private and left no traces of their same-sex activities. They sought out and orchestrated press interviews that would play up their devotion to each other. Still,

Manners, and their union was also rumored to be "of convenience." According to one account, Taylor engineered Lunt and Fontanne's union, then got jealous and broke off her relationship with Fontanne when Lunt began exerting too much influence over his wife.

Like McClintic, Lunt seems to have pursued a number of discreet sexual liaisons with young men of the theater. It's been proposed, too, that Noel Coward's famous *Design for Living* (1933) – a bedroom comedy with a strong bisexual undercurrent, written for him-

friends were another lavender couple – film actor Janet Gaynor and her costume-designer husband Adrian. In her autobiography, Martin called Gaynor her "closest, most special friend." After their husbands were out of the picture (Halliday died; Gaynor and Adrian divorced), Martin moved to southern California within kissing distance of Gaynor, and the two spent much of the latter part of their lives together. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at P0column@aol.com.

Past Out

To the public, Cornell and McClintic looked like a committed straight couple who were partners in both love and work.

there were persistent rumors about them in tabloids like *Broadway Brevities*, which, in one 1933 item, called an unnamed husband-and-wife team "queer as a couple of bugs." The husband, the paper reported, was "a pansy who is conducting an affair with his male secretary," while the wife is "a lesbian and has several girls acting as her lovers."

Fontanne enjoyed intimate friendships with a number of women, including fellow actor Laurette Taylor, in whose theatrical company she worked when she first came to the States. (Taylor, in turn, was married to playwright Hartley

self and the Lunts to perform – may have been autobiographical and that the playwright had affairs with both Lunt and Fontanne.

Lavender marriages continued to be popular in the 1940s, when actor Mary Martin got her start. Martin was a brash tomboy who made her name on Broadway in musicals like *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Peter Pan*. By her side was her husband-manager Richard Halliday, whose interests included shopping for antiques with his mother, decorating the couple's homes, and choosing his wife's wardrobe and hairstyles.

Martin and Halliday's best

Suggested reading:

Curtin, Kaier. 1987. "We Can Always Call Them Bulgarians": The Emergence of Lesbians and Gay Men on the American Stage. Boston: Alyson Publications.

Mosel, Tad. 1978. *Leading Lady: The World and Theatre of Katharine Cornell*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Schanke, Robert A., and Kim Marra, eds. 1998. *Passing Performances: Queer Readings of Leading Players in American Theater History*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

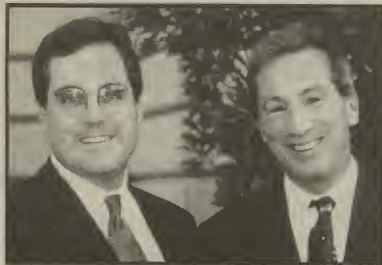
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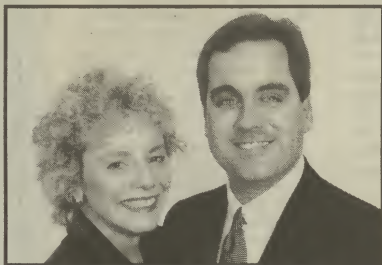
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Assemblywoman Carole Migden supports Dennis Herrera for City Attorney



Supervisor Mark Leno supports Dennis Herrera for City Attorney

DENNIS HERRERA is the Democratic Party and Green Party choice for City Attorney. His opponent is the Republican Party choice. *The Bay Guardian* and *SF Weekly* also urge you to vote for DENNIS HERRERA.

Paid for by Herrera for City Attorney

This election is critical to the LGBT Community.
Vote Tuesday, December 11th.

Politics from a 'lesbian perspective'

by Paula Martinac

Recently, a gay male reader wrote me a letter praising my column, but also worrying that its title, "Lesbian Notions," might "ghettoize" my writing. His fear was that some gay men "may not be looking at your work because you write under a lesbian banner," even though I always write about issues of concern to the queer community in general. This reader raised a provocative question: What is a "lesbian perspective" and why is it still considered "separate" instead of "universal"?

First, some history: I started writing this column in 1997, after answering an ad from Q Syndicate for a writer to pen an op-ed column on politics and culture from a progressive, lesbian-feminist point of view. Although there were a few lesbian journalists offering serious political analysis on a national level (at that time, primarily Deb Price and Urvasi Vaid), there was a dearth of lesbian voices in local gay publications, even those edited by women. And when lesbian writers did get a platform in local gay papers, they tended to write about personal topics—nasty break-ups, the trials of being single, growing up as tomboys.

The name "Lesbian Notions" was meant to suggest lesbian-feminism in a subtle way by playing off the old 1970s term "Lesbian Nation." But the column was decidedly not separatist; the audience was always meant to be women and men of all ages, races, and economic levels. For that reason, the topics covered were, and continue to be, of broad interest to the queer community—from domestic partnership and same-sex marriage to Washington politics, transgender issues, welfare, and the World Trade Center disaster.

Almost five years later, there still isn't much political analysis in the gay press written by lesbians. And when most people in our community think of political analysis from a broader gay perspective, it's names like Michelangelo Signorile, Andrew Sullivan, and Rex Wockner that spring to mind.

Why is that? A lot of it, of course, has to do with the state of journalism in general. There isn't that much women's political perspective in the mainstream or alternative press either. Not long



Christine Smith

ago in an online feminist discussion forum, Katha Pollitt, a columnist for *The Nation*, observed, that "women writers are scarce" at her magazine and at other leftist publications. She theorized that the problem was due to "sheer sexism" and the "ghettoization of women writers to women's issues." Indeed, when you look at everything from op-ed pages to the makeup of Congress, politics is still considered the province of men.

That might explain why, a few years back, a gay male publisher decided to stop running my column in his paper because he thought I

didn't deal often enough with "lesbian topics." My column, he said, might just as well have been called "Gay Notions" for how often I wrote on broad issues. But what, I wonder, would a specifically "lesbian topic" be? Martina? Melissa? Softball?

The kind of public response my column has garnered is also worth noting. I tend to get more mail from males when the headline indicates it has something to do with them directly. The most response I ever got to a column, for example, was for a commentary headlined in some papers as "The Emasculation of Gay Politics" and in others as "Lesbians Have Ruined the Gay Movement?" (a critique of a talk by Andrew Sullivan, for which the response was overwhelmingly positive). Another recent piece that generated a lot of letters from men (this time mostly angry) was "The Other Side of 'Manliness,'" in which I looked at homophobia and sexism in traditionally male jobs like firefighting—a touchy subject these days.

So what is a "lesbian perspective"? Webster's offers this definition of "perspective": "the interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed." That's a good description of what an op-ed writer tries to accomplish—to

put the pieces of an issue together into a coherent picture. In doing so, all commentators bring with them personal history. My writing on political topics is informed by being a white woman, a lapsed Catholic, the second person in my large, extended family to graduate from college (my older sister was the first), and, of course, a lesbian.

Yet, unfortunately, our culture still tends to value the male (and specifically the white straight male) perspective as universal, while other perspectives—of women, blacks, and gays, for example—are ghettoized. And within gay and lesbian culture, further ghettoizing can occur, with "lesbian" signaling a fringe view that can't possibly interest the community as a whole.

There's not a quick fix to this. The idea of changing my column's name to a gender-neutral one reminds me of when women writers worked under male pseudonyms or used initials to get their work accepted. The solution, I believe, lies more with readers, who need to recognize that many different viewpoints can have universal interest. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

Lesbian Notions

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

tative Gary Condit might decide to run for another term.

Meanwhile, Dick Rosen Garten, publisher of the popular statewide *California Political Week* (CALPEEK), handed out his annual "Who's Hot & Who's Not" awards in the political world. Gary Condit and his son, Chad Condit, received this year's "Beavis & Butt-head" award; his "Always a Star" award went to Senator Dianne Feinstein; his "Newest Star" award went to Representative

Nancy Pelosi, the new Democratic House whip; and his "Thinks She's Hot, But She's Not" award went to Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-10th District), the only Democrat in the California delegation who didn't vote for Pelosi for Demo whip.

This week's "quote of the week" comes from Supervisor Aaron Peskin speaking about the city's latest Elections Department snafus: "This election department and the people in charge of it are making San Francisco the biggest laughingstock this side of Florida."

Tuesday, December 11—vote for Dennis Herrera for city attorney. ▼

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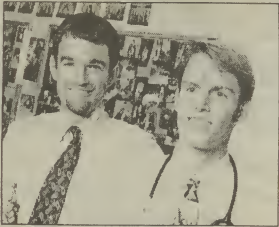


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Booty bandits

by Jane Warner

1 8th and Dolores, December 1, 9 p.m.: A man was walking near Dolores Park when suddenly two men ran up from behind him. Simultaneously, one of the men pulled up the man's shirt, while the other pulled down his pants. One of the attackers demanded the man's wallet, but the victim fought back, pushing away from his assailants before they could take his belongings. The victim ran toward Valencia Street until he lost sight of the suspects, described as white males in their early 20s, about 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds. The victim could not remember their clothing, other than one of the robbers was wearing Doc Martins.

Mystery guest

17th and Noe, November 29, 10 p.m.: A man parked his car on the corner of 17th and Noe near his house and went to bed. When he

woke up the next morning, he discovered a message on his answering machine from the San Francisco Police Department informing him that his car had been impounded. After hearing the message, the man called police, who informed him that the night before, a man driving his car was pulled over for a traffic violation and found not to have a driver's license. Because the car was not reported stolen, the man was cited and released, but the car was impounded. The man told police that he had not given anyone permission to drive his car, and that it must have been stolen in the middle of the night. Officers filed a theft report and submitted the ticket as evidence. The man retrieved his car from City Tow.

Gang bang

4300 block of 25th Street, No-

vember 27, 9:05 p.m.: While walking up the pathway to her house a woman was approached from behind by a man who wielded a knife and demanded her purse. Fearing for her life, the woman complied and gave the robber her handbag.

As the suspect fled, the woman chased after him, screaming for her husband, who came out of the house and chased the suspect as well. A neighbor also joined the pursuit. The suspect, described as a stocky Latino male, 30 years old, and wearing a hooded parka, suddenly stopped and stated, "I have a gun and I will shoot you." The three stopped chasing him and watched as he turned the corner on Clipper Street. Responding police searched the area, but were unable to find him. They did, however, discover a knife and the woman's purse between two parked cars. ▼



Hera's caretakers file appeal with state high court

by Ed Walsh

The fate of the surviving dog that was involved in the fatal mauling of Diane Whipple is in the hands of the California Supreme Court.

In a hearing last Friday, November 30, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren denied a defense motion to keep Hera alive. Attorneys for Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, the husband-wife caretakers of the two dogs involved in the attack, argued that Hera should be kept alive as evidence in the criminal case against them. Bane, the male dog that instigated the mauling, was put down shortly after the January 26 attack.

A San Francisco deputy city attorney argued that a city order to euthanize Hera should be carried out because the dog continues to present a danger to others. Since the incident, Hera has been kept in a cage in the custody of Animal Care and Control.

Knoller's attorney, Nedra Ruiz, argued passionately that putting Hera to death would amount to "an act of suppression of evidence." Ruiz said that a jury

should be allowed to see for themselves Hera's non-aggressive and gentle nature. She told Warren that Hera is "direct evidence" of the kind of behavior of which the dog is capable.

Making it clear early on that he wasn't buying Ruiz's arguments, Warren interrupted: "The dog could be capable of flying but that's not relevant, what's relevant is the dog's behavior on January 26, 2001."

Noel's attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, suggested the case is analogous to one that involved a car accident. Hotchkiss said that just as a wrecked car should be preserved as evidence, so should Hera be kept alive as evidence.

After hearing more than an hour's worth of arguments, Warren ruled that there was no reason to keep Hera alive for the trial.

In a telephone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, December 3, Knoller said that Noel filed an appeal with the California Supreme Court just after the hearing on Friday. City officials said that they would continue to keep Hera alive until the couple exhausted their appeals.

During Friday's hearing,

Knoller appeared in court in a padded neck collar but she appeared in much better health than at a hearing held a week earlier. Unlike the earlier hearing, Knoller was able to walk into court without assistance.

Knoller told the *B.A.R.* that doctors at San Francisco General Hospital are still baffled by the source of the severe bruising that first appeared on her legs in September. Knoller said she planned to seek a second opinion after SFGH doctors suggested that the bruising is being caused by trauma that she was intentionally or unintentionally inflicting upon herself.

Knoller said she wears a padded neck collar to treat the injury that she got while trying to restrain Bane during the deadly hallway attack on Whipple, her next door neighbor.

Knoller, 46, is being charged with second-degree murder. Noel, 60, who was not with the dogs during the attack, faces involuntary manslaughter as his most serious charge. Each also faces a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

The trial is slated for January 22 in Los Angeles. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Home(ophobic) Depot coming to town?

by Katie Szymanski

A mammoth chain store that can legally ignore neighborhood concerns and refuses to offer domestic partnership benefits to its employees is close to getting the go-ahead to build and operate in San Francisco.

Home Depot is in negotiations to open a 150,000 square foot business — the largest Home Depot in the country — in the space left vacant by Goodman's Lumber on Bayshore Avenue, right below the residential area of Bernal Heights and in the heart of the Bayview's industrial district. Because the existing planning process requires only minimal approval, there is very little standing in its way, and the company has refused even to discuss domestic partnership, according to those opposed to the store.

"From a gay and lesbian point of view, it is hard to grasp that a company could come into San Francisco and not be willing to offer domestic partnership benefits," said Liz Linale, a Bernal Heights lesbian who is actively working against the store, mostly because of its neighborhood impact.

"We will be faced with an enormous amount of traffic. And I don't know that their big box fits anywhere in San Francisco," said Linale, who as an employee of Cole Hardware is also worried about the store's impact on local businesses.

"Home Depot is destination shopping," she said. "It's not like people going to the store will be stopping at all the local businesses

along the way. And I can't even begin to imagine what an 8,000 square foot nursery will do to all the city's small plant shops."

Rick Karp, president of Cole Hardware, has concerns not only for local businesses but for the character of the city.

"They expect to do \$40 million of business out of that store, when the home improvement market in San Francisco is just \$49 million. We're talking about losing neighborhood paint shops, tile shops, supply shops, lumber yards, and the list goes on."

We're also talking about eyesores, according to Karp, who pointed out that as the law stands "any big box retail store like Target or Wal Mart could come into the city without scrutiny."

"They've saturated suburban and rural America and now they're trying to grow into the cities. It will change the nature of San Francisco."

Linale, Karp, and other opponents have appealed the Planning Commission's decision to allow Home Depot into the city. But what neighborhood activists are banking on is pending legislation introduced by Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano that would subject giant stores to more neighborhood input.

The legislation, according to Ammiano's office, would require all big box retail operations over 50,000 square feet (except grocery stores) to get approval through a conditional use process. This process means that the Planning Commission can adopt conditions of approval — such as lessening visual or traffic concerns — in order for the project to go forward. If approval is granted, sur-

rounding property owners or five members of the Board of Supervisors can still appeal decision for full board hearing. This procedure is currently required in many areas of the city for many types of development; however, there is no such blanket procedure for large chain stores looking at San Francisco in general.

"It's an important leverage tool when dealing with any big box retail store looking at San Francisco," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Home Depot comes into the arena with a couple of strikes against it — labor practices, safety issues, and a very significant one in San Francisco, their lack of cooperation in granting domestic partnership benefits. The moral and ethical climate would demand that they had the good sense, even if it's just business sense, to grant it. It's disappointing that they have so far resisted when there is a great deal of support for domestic partnership, even in the most conservative businesses. They're totally out of the loop here."

Home Depot did not return phone calls from the *B.A.R.* by press time.

While Ammiano's legislation alone would not solve the lack of domestic partnership benefits at Home Depot, it is one of many issues that could come into play during the appeal process.

And for neighbors like Linale, page 23 ►

Paltry sum awarded to gay victim of sexual harassment

by Katie Szymanski

A winning verdict was tainted with mixed messages and disappointment last month when a jury in the San Joaquin County Superior Court awarded just \$10,000 to a plaintiff in a same-sex sexual harassment and rape case.

The case, *Silva v. Stockton Further Processing Inc.*, was the civil component to a criminal case that resulted in the conviction of a meat packing supervisor for the harassment and eventual rape of gay employee Alberto Silva. Silva allegedly endured the constant barrage of obscene, derogatory names in Spanish, which escalated for months — in spite of Silva's complaints — until January 1999, when his supervisor followed him to his car and sexually assaulted him after a shift. In the criminal case, the supervisor pleaded "no contest" to the charges and served less than one year in jail.

In the civil case, lawyers for Silva argued that the company was liable for emotional distress and future medical costs because it

failed to enforce its own sexual harassment policy. Considering the established facts of the case, they had expected to be awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"We won, but the jury had a tough time," said Robert Lazo of the San Francisco-based Employment Lawyers' Group. "We were surprised by the low amount. Our client is happy to have the validation of the community; money was never the main motivator for him. But the comments from some of the jurors did suggest that they were treating this case differently because of the gender and sexual orientation of the plaintiff."

Those comments included suggestions that Silva, as a gay man, probably did not suffer from the rape and abuse, a viewpoint that Lazo attributes to the more conservative climate of the trial's venue.

The trial began on October 23 and concluded in mid-November. It required a simple 9-3 majority for a verdict. The jury, however, remained "split on almost every issue," according to Lazo. "Some of the jurors were very supportive. Some of them were not." ▼




William Owen, Jr., M.D.
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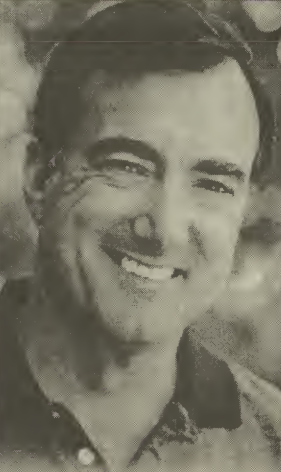
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AIDS activists target Roche and Bayer on the eve of World AIDS Day



Ken Baxter, of Hemophilia Justice, painted himself and a skeleton red to protest high drug prices in front of the Bayer facility in Berkeley. Baxter became infected with HIV through contaminated Bayer blood factor.

by Liz Highleyman

Last Friday, November 30, nearly 100 demonstrators rallied in Berkeley on the eve of World AIDS Day to protest high drug prices and drug patent abuse.

Carrying puppets and signs reading "Greed Equals Death" and chanting "Health care is a right," protesters marched from the offices of Roche Diagnostics on Seventh Street to Bayer's facility several blocks away.

The action was sponsored by a coalition of groups concerned with drug prices and drug company policies including ACT UP/East Bay, HealthGAP, the Berkeley and Oakland Gray Panthers, Global Exchange, Vote Health, Public Citizen, the California Nurses Association, Hemophilia Justice, and others; it was endorsed by the Berkeley City

Council.

On the second anniversary of protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle, demonstrators demanded that Roche and other pharmaceutical companies allow developing countries to use trade provisions known as compulsory licensing and parallel importing to make low-cost generic drugs available to people living with HIV/AIDS. In what has become a growing alliance, global justice and anti-capitalist protesters joined with AIDS activists to call for "affordable medication for every nation."

"We are putting the 'world' back in World Day's Day," said ACT UP/East Bay's John Iversen, calling attention to the fact that some 90 percent of people with AIDS in the developing world do not have access to AIDS drugs.

While drug companies have argued that poor countries lack the infrastructure to make AIDS drugs available, Phillip Machingura, a member of HealthGAP from Zimbabwe, countered that people in Africa are dying within reach of hospitals and clinics that have their hands tied because drugs are too expensive.

Activists learned of a victory on Friday when Thailand agreed to provide subsidized treatment using locally produced AIDS drugs under its public health program after a protest by an estimated 1,000 people with HIV/AIDS in Bangkok. The program, which debuted in April, previously covered everything except kidney dialysis and AIDS. The newly-announced Thai program follows in the footsteps of a successful program in Brazil, which produces and provides AIDS drugs for free to all its people with HIV/AIDS. The U.S. last year challenged a Brazilian law allowing Brazil to produce generic drugs; after receiving international pressure, the U.S. dropped its case this past June.

Although Bayer does not produce AIDS drugs, the company has been in the news lately because it holds the patent on Cipro, a drug used to treat anthrax. In October, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson threatened to override Bayer's patent, days after Canada had done the same. To preserve its patent rights, Bayer cut a deal with the U.S. government to provide Cipro at about half its previous discount price — a price that activists say still allows a 65 percent profit margin. Demonstrators on Friday decried the hypocrisy of the U.S. threatening action against a drug company's patent when it serves U.S. interests, even as the government defends pharmaceutical patents on AIDS drugs in poor countries.

Bayer also came under fire from advocates for hemophiliacs because the company produced HIV-infected blood factor, a product hemophiliacs need to control excessive bleeding. Activists contend the factor was made from pooled plasma collected from prisoners and was sold even after the manufacturer was aware that it was contaminated. According to Ken Baxter from Hemophilia Justice, Bayer sold a product that "they knew would kill," causing the deaths of 4,000 hemophiliacs, "a number New York City knows

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(lopinavir/ritonavir)

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Please see adjacent page for Patient Information

KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that you should NOT take with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA: Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylegonovine such as Cafergot®; Migrana®; D.H.E. 45®; Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Orap® (pimozide)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Rythmol® (propafenone)
- Seldane® (terfenadine)
- Tambocor™ (flecainide)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St.

John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tagamet® and others)
These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver diseases such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Kitsch-mas

◀ page 1

and hot pepper string lights (\$13), and over-the-top blond wigs, 1950s-style, made of foam (\$25). For the tranny or menopausal person in your life, purchase a cartoon character image on home office items that asks, almost hysterically, "Has anyone seen my hormones?" (\$7 and up). Round out your gifts with a pack of Christmas cards that features retro housewives calling each other names like "Bitch" and "Whore," (\$16) the perfect festive greeting.

Stores not to be missed along the strip include the **Piedmont Boutique** (unbeatable for drag attire), **Shoe Biz II** (old sneaker-style roller skates are back), and **Villains** (artistic football jerseys, space-age boots, and stars-and-bullet belts for the new millennium).

Now it's time to travel to the valley, where more fun awaits.

Yes, Noe

From the Haight, hop into a vehicle headed up – and then down – Divisadero. Once you reach Castro Street, you'll want to cruise in the direction of the numbered streets toward 24th.

The most original – and one of the most popular – finds this holiday season come directly from your family albums.

Terra Mia, the do-it-yourself pottery studio, can now screen your favorite snapshots onto tile or other items. Imagine a mosaic table for mom with a childhood photo in the middle, or a clock that features Fluffy the cat, appropriately, as the center of time. Here's how it works: bring in an image (high contrast works best) and pick out a flat piece of pottery and a dark color with which to outline the figure. For \$35, a silk screen artist will shrink or enlarge the image as necessary and project it onto the chosen ceramic piece (sold separately, usually from \$5-\$50). You walk away with a finished piece and the silk screen to use for future endeavors. Terra



Cyanotype photo tins and lunch box at Chocolate Covered.

Mia recommends allowing for a two-week turnaround time during the holiday crunch. The store has moved since last year, to 1314 Castro, at 24th.

If craftiness seems a bit too ambitious this season, bring those photographs a few doors down to **Chocolate Covered**, 3977 24th Street. Order by December 15, and the shop will turn any image into a tin container suitable for filling with sweets or other gifts in time for Christmas. Octagons, squares, hearts, and lunch boxes are just some of the shapes offered. There is a one-time charge of \$10 per image, and the tins range in price from \$15-\$40.

It is now time to make your way further down the hill, to the flat and sunny part of town.

Mission accomplished

New stores have come and gone in the Mission since the boom went bust, but a few have demonstrated staying power, including **Therapy**, with its main location at 545 Valencia (at 17th), and two additional shops further up the street. Here is where you will find everything you never knew you needed, like a robot called the Gender Bender (\$25), candles decorated with gay pulp fiction titles (\$10), and an assortment of homo-savvy magnets and trinkets in the \$5 range.

Folks looking for a true progressive bookstore that puts its money where its mouth is must shop at **Modern Times**, 888 Valencia. For serious as well as fun gay gifts.

Still thriving is **Multi Kulti**, the import store known for its beyond-reasonable prices on handmade items. Like last year, a four-foot painted wooden tower of drawers goes for \$50, while smaller items start at \$5.

Also on this strip is newcomer **Kwee Jibo**, 541 Valencia, the replacement to the recently defunct Dal Jeets. Although its clothing is expensive and the store seems relatively empty, its treasures are in the rolls of vintage-inspired fabrics not found anywhere else in the city, from \$6 to \$20 a yard.

Wrap it up

Despite having hit three surrounding neighborhoods of the Castro, you're not done yet. Keep moving down Valencia, toward Market Street. Your packaging awaits.

How you wrap your gifts says a lot about what you are giving. At **Flax**, 1699 Market Street (near Valencia), faux animal fur boxes start at \$10, and sturdy boxes within boxes, reminiscent of those popular Russian dolls, can be found for \$6. While here, incidentally, it will be impossible not to check out creative gifts like journals, building toys, and art supplies.

Head south – South of Market, that is – to the best little box shop in town, **The Packaging Store**, at 1255 Howard Street (at 9th). Will you cradle your presents in cookie tins, a take-out container, a metal cylinder, cardboard star, a tool case, or leopard-print rectangle? The choice is yours at this comprehensive shop, which offers bubble wrap, mailers, and shipping services as well. Boxes start at a buck and can run up to \$15, depending on the size and make. Hip, geometric patterns pervade the abundant stock of (\$7) wrapping paper. Gay-owned and operated, the shop is the solution to finding a stylish presentation for any item.

Happy giving! ▼



Same-sex mouse pads at Revival of the Fittest.

Castro Xmas

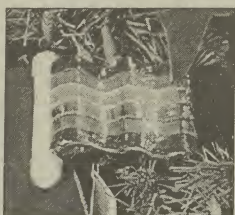
◀ page 1

people love to devour the handmade confections of Belgian chocolate and fresh cream, they collect the handmade gift boxes.

The least expensive holiday boxes sell for \$19 and are styled after Christmas cards and contain eight mini truffles. Other holiday-styled boxes containing 12 large truffles range in price from \$22 to \$25. Or you can forgo the fancy box, pick out a dozen truffles for \$13 and wrap them yourself.

For a more devilish time with chocolate, **Under One Roof** at 549 Castro Street is selling the Chocoholics Strip Chocolate Game for \$25.

The store, which donates its profits to numerous nonprofit HIV/AIDS agencies, is selling what it bills as the first-ever rain-



Under One Roof's exclusive rainbow flag ornament.

bow flag ornament, said Leslie Ewing, the store's merchandising and development director. The hand-painted glass ornament costs \$25 and was specially commissioned by Under One Roof.

This year the store's hot-pink-est item is the pink poodle purse and muff, for \$20. Also for purchase is the pink poodle Buddha

meditation statue, for \$15. Tired of taking care of your friend's dog every time they go camping? Buy them a pup tent. Made by Room Interior Products, the Funky Pet Tent sells for \$35.

Home accessories never fail as gifts for your nesting friends. **Earthtones** at 2323 Market Street has a set of four silver napkin holders that retail for \$23.50. The shop also sells glass perfume bottles for \$19.85 and crystal votive candle holders for \$29.50.

Our pick for the absolute cheapest gift you can give and not feel like a scrooge is the little Zen garden at **Planet Weavers Treasure Store**, 518 A Castro Street. Priced at \$5.99, the mini tray of sand with tiny rocks and rake offers serenity for pennies. Other choices include kits for sushi, pressed flowers and a little fountain (although it is hand operated). ▼

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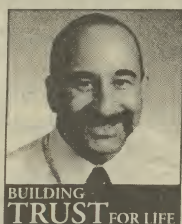
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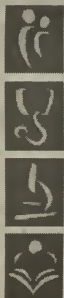
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SF activists remain in jail

by Cynthia Laird

Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli, the two men arrested last week on a variety of criminal charges stemming from their alleged harassment of workers in the public health and media professions, remain in the San Francisco County Jail on \$500,000 bail each after a Superior Court judge last week denied defense motions that bail be reduced.

Following a November 30 hearing in San Francisco Superior Court, Judge Julie Tang kept the bail amount at \$500,000 for each man, citing potential danger and the nature of the alleged crimes.

Assistant District Attorney Machaela Hocht told the judge that the charges warranted the high bail. The charges stem from alleged harassment against health and media professionals, including the *Bay Area Reporter*, after the men became enraged over reports of increased syphilis among gay men and AIDS-related coverage.

"We are dealing with harassment, stalking, threats, and physical following in one case," Hocht told the judge.

Attorneys for Petrelis and Pasquarelli maintained the alleged charges were "civil matters" that could be addressed with restraining orders, although they conceded that "some things they do are

very obnoxious."

Hocht told the judge that seven of the victims fear for their personal safety and the safety of their families and alleged that in some instances, children of workers had been subjected to the harassment.

Petrelis faces one felony count of conspiracy, three counts of felony stalking, four counts of felony terrorist threats, and 11 counts of misdemeanor harassment.

Pasquarelli was arrested on one count of felony conspiracy, two counts of felony stalking, four counts of felony terrorist threats, three counts of misdemeanor harassment, and two counts of violating a restraining order, also misdemeanors. ▼

World AIDS Day

◀ page 14

quite well."

Beatrice Rusafa marched carrying a large poster of her hemophilic son — a founder of ACT UP/Belgium — who died of AIDS at age 24 after being infected through HIV-contaminated blood factor.

Other speakers focused on domestic issues. "There's a serious drug war going on in this country," said Joan Claybrook, president of consumer advocacy group Public Citizen. "I'm talking about the war against consumers being waged by Big Pharma in Washington." According to Claybrook, the

pharmaceutical industry last year spent over a quarter of a billion dollars in campaign contributions, advertising, and lobbying to influence government policies and deceive the U.S. public.

"These companies employ an army of well-connected lobbyists to carpet-bomb the Capitol with their false propaganda," Claybrook stated.

Although drug companies claim high prices are necessary to fund the development of new medications, Claybrook said that the industry last year spent nearly three times as much on marketing and administrative costs as it did on drug research and development.

No representatives from either drug company addressed the pro-

testers last week.

Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek and Margo Smith of the Berkeley Gray Panthers and Vote Health both noted that an estimated 71 million people in the U.S. — many of them seniors — lack prescription drug coverage and cannot afford high-priced medications. Although the Bay Area has enlightened representatives in the area of health care, Smith asked listeners to urge their friends and relatives "in the boon-docks" to vote for health.

Wilson Riles, formerly of the American Friends Service Committee and currently a candidate for mayor of Oakland, urged more direct tactics. "Street heat," he said, "will make the difference." ▼

Anthrax

◀ page 1

crat from South Dakota, and Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont.

"There is no clear evidence on what caused the death of Lundgren, but the discovery of anthrax spores in Connecticut leads us to believe cross-contamination did occur and Lundgren did receive mail," said Tommy Thompson, U.S. Health and Human Service secretary. "We are looking at cross-contamination and all other pos-

sible anthrax exposures such as tracing the itinerary of the people who died of inhalation anthrax but so far nothing else has turned up except cross-contamination.

"It's an uncomfortable situation — the possibility of cross-contamination of mail, the probability of low-levels of [anthrax] spores with wide distribution," Thompson said.

The U.S. Postal Service said in a statement Sunday the equipment where the trace anthrax was found has been isolated for cleaning, but the Wallingford facility has not been shut down. Nearly

400 samples have been taken from the Wallingford Post Office, the most recent on November 28, when trace amounts turned up on five samples.

New York officials said Monday that a letter addressed to a Bronx business located near where Kathy Nguyen lived went through the same Hamilton, New Jersey, mail sorting facility on October 9 as did the anthrax-contaminated mail to the senators. Nguyen, a supply clerk at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, died October 31, from

page 23 ▶

Red Cross

◀ page 1

Cross in Greater New York. During that meeting, the inequitable and inconsistent treatment being given to gays and lesbians applying for relief assistance was discussed.

"This action by the Red Cross brings real meaning to its stated commitment to using a broad and inclusive definition of family when distributing assistance to all those who suffered on September 11, including gays and lesbians who lost

their partners," said Joe Grabarz, executive director of Empire State Pride Agenda. "We praise the Red Cross for this decision and urge it to use the guidelines and training established here to address similar needs as they arise in future disasters and emergencies."

With its new guidelines, the Red Cross becomes the first national relief agency to provide detailed policies and procedures on how to respect same-sex relationships when determining eligibility for disaster-related assistance.

Several weeks ago, the Red

Cross came under scathing criticism from congressional leaders and others when the organization announced that some of the millions raised for survivors of September 11 were to be used for infrastructure improvements within the organization. The organization's president abruptly resigned following those disclosures. The agency quickly backed off that plan, and has since assured political leaders and the public that all money raised and intended for disaster relief will go toward those relief efforts. ▼

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Medical pot

◀ page 5

"Patients have a real difficulty with getting these recommendations because of a fear of retribution," said Dr. Stephen Ellis who makes a specialty of evaluating patients for medical marijuana therapy.

Doctors who do recommend marijuana have come under fire from both the medical board and some mainstream media outlets—and could face sanctions from the DEA. The DEA controls the prescription mechanism for controlled substances. Every doctor who wants to write a prescription for such classified drugs, including morphine and acne cream, must have a registration number from the DEA.

"These doctors are putting in jeopardy their DEA license," said the DEA's Meyer. "They have to abide by certain rules."

Last Tuesday, November 27, KTVU Channel 2 aired what it termed an investigative report into how easy it is to get a recommendation for medical marijuana.

na.

The station sent a person, whom it will not identify but who the report said is a producer at the station, into Ellis's office with what reporter John Fowler described on the air as a doctor's note about "a minor sports-related knee injury."

The report went on to criticize Ellis for recommending marijuana and stated that it is very easy to get a recommendation for medical pot in San Francisco.

"The reporter [John Fowler] knows the truth," Ellis said. "The patient presented with a note of diagnosis from his physician stating a qualifying chronic pain condition. In that sense, it is easy to get a recommendation, and it should be."

East Bay Dr. Tod Mikuriya said he has been the subject of multiple investigations by the medical board and said he is being harassed.

Because of this fear among doctors, San Francisco has implemented an identification card system to identify medical pot users. Once a physician sends a recommendation for medical cannabis

for a patient, the Department of Public Health issues a photo ID card that contains a unique identifier code, but no name.

DPH does not keep any records about the cards, other than the unique number. It pointedly does not retain the original doctor's recommendation, to protect the doctor from action by the DEA.

Federal law has not caught up to the will of the voters on this issue. According to Leno, San Franciscans passed Proposition 215 by a margin of 78 percent in 1996. It wasn't until July of this year that Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) introduced legislation in Congress to move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act—where drugs that have some medicinal value are listed.

Leno's sanctuary measure clarifies what he calls the will of San Francisco voters about medical pot.

"San Francisco voters have spoken out clearly on this issue for over three decades—we want our city to be a safe haven for legitimate medical use of cannabis. Medical cannabis is a gift." ▼

COLAGE

◀ page 3

To participate, children need to obtain a pledge form and gather pledges from friends, family, or businesses. Proceeds from the event will fund the organization's Bay Area art and adventure support groups, annual family events, and after-school programming. Organizers will dole out prizes to all participants and hand out awards for most pledges received,

most money raised, best bowling outfit and most team spirit.

The demonstration will take place from 12 to 12:45 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Bowling Center, 750 Folsom Street. The bowl-a-thon will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. For a pledge form or more information, call COLAGE at (415) 861-5437, ext. 103.

Also on Saturday in the East Bay, All Our Families Coalition will hold its holiday party at All Souls Episcopal Parish, 2220 Cedar Street (at Spruce) in Berkeley from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The party promises jump tents, face painting, balloon shapes, gingerbread decorating, crafts, singing, and more. Organizers said a free notary will be on hand for state domestic partner registration, but people need to bring the \$10 state filing fee.

Interested people should bring a dish to share and an unwrapped present to donate to the San Francisco Fire Department for distribution to children in need. For more information, call (415) 681-1960. ▼



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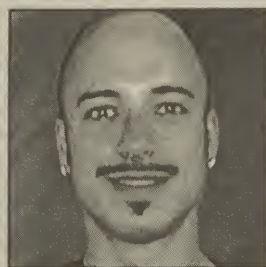
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First In A Series



WHY IS IT NOW A CRIME TO HAVE URGENCY ABOUT AIDS?



DEMAND AUDITS! STOP ANTI-GAY QUARANTINE PLANS! DEFEND DISSENT!

*A public statement
from Michael Petrelis of the AIDS Accountability Project and David Pasquarelli of ACT UP San Francisco*

December 1, 2001 • Worlds AIDS Day • From the San Francisco County Jail

As many of you may be aware, Michael Petrelis, a cofounder of the AIDS activist group ACT UP New York, and David Pasquarelli, outspoken AIDS dissident from ACT UP San Francisco, are presently incarcerated at the county jail.

Dear allies in the struggle to end AIDS,

Prior to our arrest and incarceration, we watched as AIDS organizations have received ever-increasing amounts of federal funding and lost touch with the people they profess to serve.

Services for sick people have been slashed, while salaries and executive perks continue to soar. Meanwhile, AIDS researchers execute every conceivable study no matter how unsound to portray gay men as hedonistic spreaders of HIV.

As a result, anti-gay harassment and bashing increase, the public grows more fearful of homosexuals, and health officials, always eager for more federal funding, have pushed the envelope by advocating coercive measures to stop gay sex. These measures have escalated over the years to the point where San Francisco's sexually transmitted disease chief now openly encourages gay bar raids, closure of adult sex venues, invasion of internet chat rooms, quarantine of gay men with AIDS, and other scary schemes.

We issue this statement to thank our friends, families, and many supporters who have given us their strength and energy during this ordeal. Your help means more to us than words can express.

More importantly, we write this open letter to unequivocally dispel the vindictive accusations against us coordinated by city officials and representatives of San Francisco's powerful AIDS and media industries. These accusations, broadcast by news outlets like KRON Channel 4 and *The San Francisco Chronicle* have unfairly characterized us — two prominent people with HIV and AIDS — as dangerous terrorists that menace families and torment workers with threats of violence.

Both of us are charged with multiple felony counts of conspiracy, issuing criminal threats, and stalking, in addition to dozens of harassment misdemeanors. Bail has been set and kept at an outrageous \$500,000 each, ensuring that we remain imprisoned indefinitely.

We adamantly dispute the false depiction of us promulgated by this well coordinated campaign of inappropriate charges and press demonization.

We want to assure the public that neither of us has ever visited the homes of our accusers.

Furthermore, we have never telephoned or talked to any of our accusers' children and we are appalled by claims to the contrary — claims that gain power from the unacceptable societal stereotype of the big, bad homosexual that preys on little kids.

Finally, accusations that we are responsible for telephoning in a bomb threat to the headquarters of *The San Francisco Chronicle* are false and absurd. This underhanded attempt by a powerful newspaper to exploit the World Trade Center calamity and further enflame public fears about enemies lurking among us is detestable.

We condemn *The Chronicle* for targeting us in such a manner and are confident that a San Francisco jury will exonerate us of these untrue allegations.

Behind the Media Manipulation Lies Massive AIDS Corruption

Activism by its very nature is a combination of examining issues, political rhetoric designed to turn concerns into community dialog, and close scrutiny of public officials and institutions.

We have been accused of escalating the tactics used to bring attention to AIDS issues over the years. However, upon inspection we find that the opposite is true.

It is clear to us that what is different today compared to a decade ago is the climate of political repression, erosion of civil liberties, especially for activists, and the extreme measures the AIDS industry has deployed to deflect attention away from its rampant corruption, greed, and growing obsolescence. As activists, we haven't changed. ACT UP hasn't escalated. It is the AIDS industry with their provocative programs, derogatory discourse, profane ad campaigns, and panic button alarmism that has gone too far.

Oddly enough, some of our most vociferous accusers are former ACT UP members who now have comfortable careers in AIDS.

These officials "earned their attitude" by employing such extreme tactics as shutting down the Golden Gate Bridge and crashing the Opera's opening performance. And now they accuse us of terrorism?

AIDS Inc. is Out Of Control

Now more than ever, in the climate caused by the tragedies in New York, Washington and Pittsburgh, we reaffirm our commitment to public debate and we defend AIDS dissent. We demand a thorough federal audit of all city AIDS programs funded by the Ryan White Care Act, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and administered by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Finally, we condemn the concept of quarantine for gay men with AIDS under any circumstances whatsoever.

In closing, please think about this. We are charged with making obscene telephone calls. However, it was the San Francisco AIDS Foundation that published a profane ad campaign in the gay press accusing our community of "not giving a fuck about AIDS."

We are accused of issuing a bomb threat. But it was a federal CDC official who terrorized the gay community with false claims of surging syphilis rates and alarmist ads targeting us with ticking time bombs.

So as life goes on after World AIDS Day, we find ourselves in a very stressful situation meant to crush our resolve and destroy our health. Yet we will not give up. We hope you will ACT UP against the perilous path people with AIDS are unwillingly being forced down.

Whether it's an atrocious campaign to transform activists into terrorists or the passage of the pending Model State Emergency Health Powers Act to make quarantine of people with AIDS a reality, the gay community is in serious trouble.

Whether you agree or disagree with the political positions we seek to raise through our direct action, this latest move against the two of us by industries we criticize will have a long lasting detrimental effect on all social activists and progressives. We hope you will continue to support us and vigilantly defend the rights of all protesters to change people's minds.

ACT UP!

FIGHT QUARANTINE!

FIGHT AIDS CORRUPTION!



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Please send letters of support to Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli at:

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San Francisco County Jail
425 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

David Pasquarelli
Jail No. 2018973
San Francisco County Jail
425 7th Street
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OBITUARIES

Vincent Thomas DiColla
September 29, 1950 —
November 11, 2001



Vince died peacefully at 1:15 a.m. on Saturday, November 10, due to AIDS-related complications, at CPMC-Davies campus. He will be remembered as a premier fan maker and fan dancer of

the disco era, and more recently as a talented disc jockey at many bars including Badlands, the Phoenix and finally Daddy's. Vince also served in the Army from 1970 to 1973. An outgoing man of stature, heart and generosity, he will be sorely missed by his many diverse friends, and will leave a personality void in the gay community.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 15, at 1 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park with a Celebration of Life reception at Daddy's bar (440 Castro St.), from 2 to 4 p.m.

Donations in Vince's memory may be made to two of the agencies who offered him great support in his final months: Positive Resource Center, 973 Market St. 6th Floor, SF CA 94103; and

Maitri House, 401 Duboce St., SF CA 94117. For more info, contact Gary Virginia at (415) 626-5004.

Michael George Smith



In loving memory of my brother, Mr. Michael George Smith, who was a long-time resident of San Francisco. He was born in July, 1953 in San Antonio, Texas and died on October 26, 2001 in Krabi, Thailand. He was the son of the late Mr. James R. Smith, a World War II veteran, and Miss Anneliese Wuestenberg of Berlin, Germany.

Michael Smith was a graduate of the California College of Arts and Crafts. He worked in retail for some of San Francisco's leading department stores. He became active in the computer technology industry which culminated in his employment with the Australian-American Ultra-Data Company. He specialized in selling computer equipment to credit institutions. He was a world traveler with a keen eye for photography and design.

Michael Smith is survived by his mother, Mrs. Anneliese Smith of San Le-

andro; brother, Mr. Peter Kybart-Smith of New York City; and partner, Robert W. Sulliff III of San Francisco.

Funeral services were held on November 13, 2001 at the San Francisco Columbarium with the Pastor Labrenz, Hope Lutheran Church officiating.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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Gay conservative think tank's ad lands with a thud

by Matthew S. Bajko

A new gay-issues think tank's four-week national print ad campaign intended to evoke debate on how the gay agenda has been impacted by the terror attacks of September 11 is falling flat.

The ad campaign, which began Thursday, November 29 in the *Washington Post*, excerpts a commentary published by Liberty Education Forum president Richard Tafel, titled "United We Stand: Gay Politics After September 11."

In the editorial, Tafel argues that the gay political movement can no longer push its agenda using a paradigm of "virtual victimization" where arguments and issues emphasize differences and alienation.

In the ad, [which ran in today's *Bay Area Reporter*] the think tank argues "gay organizations are not sure how to respond" to the new message of unity sweeping the nation. It questions if the supposed "gay agenda" is still valid.

"We are launching this ad campaign to focus on a real phenomenon all across the country, and it isn't just among gay people," Tafel told the Advocate.com. "In communities everywhere, people are joining together to support the war against terrorism. Though the struggle for equality is never over in our own country, there is a growing realization that what unites us as Americans is much greater than what divides us."

The Liberty Education Forum began six years ago as the Log Cabin Education Fund, and later as the Liberty Education Fund. Tafel, who is also the executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, launched the new educational think tank on July 21, to promote new ideas and new directions for the gay community, with a centrist approach.

Since the first ads appeared, leaders of national LGBT organizations say they have been scratching their heads over the campaign's muddled message. None of the national gay groups have yet to officially respond to the ads.

"I can't tell you what the Liber-

ty campaign is trying to say. And this is a think tank?" said Chad Johnson, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats.

Especially puzzling to other gay activists is the Liberty ad's assertion LGBT people are "virtual victims." Since the terror attacks, the stories of real LGBT victims, such as San Francisco resident Mark Bingham, and the plight of partners fighting for benefits have been widely reported.

"I am a little bit baffled by it. I am not sure, frankly, what it is trying to get across to the community," said Cathy Renna, news media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "As far as we are concerned here at GLAAD, since September 11 our work is now more important than ever. I have been on the phone with real victims who have real problems and can't get real benefits. That is the reality we work with everyday here."

Johnson said he finds the ad campaign ironic since he was joined by Tafel four days prior to the first ad appearing to announce a joint statement to the Department of Justice asking for equal treatment for LGBT people in respect to the federal September 11 victim compensation fund.

"I think the Liberty ad basically has everything turned around. Our struggle for civil equality is now more vibrant and intense," said Johnson. "The inequalities are more plainly obvious as irrational as they ever have been."

Instead of backing down from the "gay agenda," Johnson said it is an opportune time to strengthen the gay movement's push for equal rights and protections.

"Now is not the time to back away and say 'Everything is fine. Let's change the way we do politics.' Now is the time to press harder even more toward fundamental equality," he said.

While Tafel and his think tank are entitled to their opinion, Human Rights Campaign spokesman David Smith said his organization has no intention of changing its message.

"One of the byproducts of September 11 has been a very clear illustration of how a lack of legal protections and equal recognition of our relationships causes

enormous human pain," said Smith. "We are seeking equality. It stems not from victimhood but from a very positive self-image of where we want to see ourselves. And that is as full and equal citizens under the law."

The full text of Tafel's commentary can be found on the think tank's Web site at www.libertyeducationforum.org.

Syphilis

It's on the rise!!

Knowledge = Power

Syphilis is a Sexually Transmitted Disease caused by a type of bacteria (germ). It can infect men, women, and children. Syphilis can be passed from one person to another during anal, oral, or vaginal sex.

What are the symptoms of syphilis?

- Usually, symptoms show up 1-12 weeks after being exposed to syphilis.

Possible early symptoms: (1-12 weeks after becoming infected)

- Skin sore called a chancre (shank-er). There may be more than one. They are usually not painful. They may be on the penis, scrotum, anus, or mouth.
- Lymph glands near the sore may be swollen, and also are not painful.

Possible later symptoms: (4-12 weeks after becoming infected)

- Flu-like illness with sore throat, headache and fever.
- Skin rash all over the body in the mouth, on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet (not itchy).
- Warty-like growths may appear in the mouth or on the genitals.
- Patchy hair loss may be noticed.
- Nervous system symptoms: neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting, seizures, hearing loss and loss of speech.

These symptoms will go away even without treatment. You are still infected

Is syphilis dangerous?

Yes! If not treated, syphilis can cause brain damage, heart disease and other long-term health problems.

What can I do if I have syphilis?

- If you think you have syphilis, go to your doctor or a clinic right away.
- It's very easy to treat, but you need to go get the treatment.
- Your sex partner(s) must be examined and treated. If not treated, they can give the infection back to you, or infect others.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ...OR COME TO CITY CLINIC

356 Seventh Street (Between Folsom and Harrison in SOMA) in SF
<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/sfcityclinic> 415-487-5580

A league of our own

by Jim Provenzano

In the past quarter century, millions of women have been able to find opportunities in nearly every sport. Some measure of success has been seen in balancing the ranks of gender—at least the two most popular genders.

Except football. Sure, the occasional prom queen place kicker gets a spot in *People* magazine, and a short-lived women's league resulted in a post-mortem PBS documentary, but women playing pro football has remained an elusive goal post.

Until now. Just this year, the WAFL (Women's American Football League) started two professional women's tackle teams in the Bay Area: The San Francisco Tsunami and the Oakland Banshees.

Recent games on November 17 and 24 got their season off to a start. The Oakland Banshees won both games and are now 2-2, with their next home game to take

place at Burrell Field in San Leandro on December 8.

Although many women sports fans may be lesbians, and many more may be in professional sports, few have come out.

That's changed in the Bay Area in what may be a groundbreaking athletic endeavor. Many women who play football for these teams are out lesbians, including those interviewed here.

New uniforms

"A good deal of us have played in the women's flag football league, which has provided a great resource," said Ondine Kilker of the Banshees. For her, sexual orientation is not the issue, but it makes for a different atmosphere where players with kids are the minority.

"Our players don't all have those same conflicts," said Kilker. "Many are happy to represent the team and be out. Most of our supporters are lesbian and gay people. It's your family and friends who are supportive."

College and intramural leagues of flag football form the majority of the talent pool for this sport. Most players are 25-40, but one is a mere 20.

Growing up in Southern Illinois, Kilker did not find any opportunities for playing football. The rise of Title IX gender equity led to more soccer and other women's sports.

"There are soccer kids now in

both genders," said Kilker. "Girls can grow up learning how to play soccer."

One of the challenges organizers faced in trying to attract women to football was the lack of a history or experience.

"We didn't have these cycles to get used to the game and equipment," said Kilker. "Every time we did something new like arm rotations with shoulder pads, we had to figure out how to throw the ball. Helmets feel like your head's

going to be squeezed, but we're getting used to it."

Adjusting to their new uniforms is perhaps symbolic of fitting into a culture that hasn't made room for them.

"We didn't learn this from age 5 like boys do," said Kilker. "We're re-learning how to play the game,

from the basic mechanics like taking down a woman or the physiology of a tackle."

Kilker noted how she's reconnected with all sorts of people from her past who are fascinated by her career as a pro football player.

"They're excited to see this sport which has been a no-woman's land," she said. "They're really thrilled. When you see the girls watching, you know they can envision an option that may be available to them."

Silver bullet

Jodi Johnson always wanted to be an Oakland Raider.



Members of the Oakland Banshees, including Kimberly Loud (69), Katie Murphy (79), Jodi Johnson (00), Laura Turner (12), and Janet Severin (74) in their game against the Seattle Warbirds.

"I can see it to this day, the JC Penney's kids uniform. I wanted it so bad."

But despite being raised in a Raiders fan family, the tomboy who regularly played the neighborhood boys and cousins couldn't completely fulfill her dream.

When she saw an article about the WPFL, by the time she pursued it, that league was gone, but she was able to track down the new league. When told that the Banshees' team colors were silver and black, the diehard Raiders fan was sold.

"A bunch of us are from flag football, which is pretty much where the base core of players came from," Johnson said. "We also recruited women who play rugby."

Not that a sport with pads is any easier.

"When we play flag football, it's hard contact," Johnson said. "When you're playing line, it's better because we can hit, you do worry about hitting them. When you're playing tackle, you don't have to be nice."

Toughening up is only part of their regimen.

"Our first game, okay, it was a disaster," she chuckled. "We're still moving from park to park to find places to practice."

Their first year is getting off in fits and starts. "We had a lot of people join us after the first game," Johnson said. "We're later forming but we have an amazing amount of talent."

Yet her spirit remains unflagged.

"People who might see it as only male sport will be surprised,"

she said. "Guys will come watch us practice, and they've actually been very supportive. Once they get used to us, they start offering advice."

Heart plays a major part of the drive among these women. "It's not as if we're playing for money," Johnson said, since the pay is minimal, and the time involved is demanding.

Can women find a place in the professional football without university support, where many top athletes get early training? Johnson thinks so, and although her league isn't the NFL, perhaps that's one of its merits.

"One of my teammates actually played varsity in college," Johnson said. "A lot of people think we can't hit, but then they come to watch a game, and hear it. And believe it."

Whether it's categorized as a lesbian-friendly sport is a good thing, but not the only thing for Johnson.

"Once the sport gets up and running you won't find the straight women being the minority," she said. "It doesn't mean they're lesbian. Some of our hardest hitters are straight. It's not a big issue on the team. I think the bigger issue is leagues getting support. We all really want to be there."

Together as a team

Janet Severin, who plays left guard for the Banshees, played softball and basketball in her hometown of Fremont. She started playing flag football about seven years ago in a local league.

next page ►

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*Placebo looks the same as a drug but has no active ingredient in it.

Participants are Reimbursed \$20 at each regular study visit plus \$20 for each DEXA test and CT scan, with a maximum of \$340 for completion of study.

There are other restrictions, please call for more information.
Contact Mary Payne, RN, at 514-0550, ext 356
Asult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Vancouver shaken by first anti-gay murder

by Katie Szymanski

About 900 miles directly north of San Francisco, thousands in Vancouver, British Columbia, last month mourned the loss of Aaron Webster, an apparent gay bashing victim who was murdered on Saturday, November 17. Webster, 41, was found in the early morning hours clinging to life in Vancouver's Stanley Park, in

an area known for gay male cruising. He was naked except for his shoes, and authorities said he had been beaten with either a baseball bat or a pool cue by a group of three to four men.

The crime is the first apparent hate-motivated murder of a gay man in British Columbia, and has rattled the city's community, as Vancouver is generally thought to be a safe place for sexual minorities. About 1,500 people rallied at

an impromptu vigil the night after Webster's death, and close to 2,000 turned out for a march in Webster's memory the following week.

"The march was peaceful and somber. It was beautiful and heart-warming to see an estimated 2,000-plus people showing support to the friends and family of Aaron Webster," according to the Web site of Leslie Dale Bruce, a gay man living in Vancouver. "As I watched the speakers and the crowd, I was left to

wonder what was in the hearts and minds of the murderers. Did they intend to scare us in to hiding? Did they think that they would destroy our pride and spirit? Did they think that by killing him that they were killing us all? I have found that they have done the exact opposite."

Webster was discovered by his best friend Tim Chisholm, who said he was driving home from the park when his headlights revealed a bloodied, naked body in

a parking lot. The victim's arms were covering his face as if he had been protecting himself. Chisholm called 911, and the emergency operator instructed him to check for a pulse.

"When I took his arm back," Chisholm said at a memorial service, "I realized who it was."

Webster died in his arms. There are no known suspects, and police have officially classified the case as a hate crime. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Making the transition was a challenge, but one she came prepared for.

"There are different strategies; how to tackle, how to block, that are different," she said. "We're coming together as a team."

They're also taking criticism in stride, particularly from some media that consider their playing more of a novelty, such as the newscaster in Arizona who was "bashing it," Severin said. Other football teams were asked to send letters and calls asking for more balanced coverage.

"I think they're looking at it as women coming into their world to play them," Severin said. "We don't want to play with men, because they're so much bigger."

They have enough hurdles just getting the chance to play.

"Unlike men who went in as kids, and got that family support," she said, "we're going in it at an older age. We're not starting as a same level, but we learn pretty fast. We're adjusting to where everybody fits in."

"Playing the Seattle team, seeing them execute plays better," has helped them improve. "There weren't true coaches on most flag teams," Severin said. "Now we actually have coaches and we watch game films."

Severin agrees that there could be progress made in the same way that women's basketball is inching toward lesbian-friendly openness.

"You know they're there," she said. But they're not out, "because they're not going to get any product endorsements. For the WNBA, the fan base is female."

It's also finance. Public image and marketing played a hand in the outreach the WNBA made toward lesbian fans, while avoiding the admission that there are lesbian players.

"In some sports it's not an issue while you're playing," Severin said. "It's what you do on the court." With our sport, she won-

ders if "some people don't like to see women get hurt."

Or is it perhaps men who don't want to see a woman who's stronger than them? "One of the straight girls says she finds it hard to find a man who's accepting of it," Severin wondered about armchair quarterbacks who "don't want to see women doing better, because they can't do it."

Roller coaster

While the prospect of a women's league gaining the multimillion dollar endorsements of the NFL are small, the determination of the players isn't.

They're even considering non-profit status, since trying to get fundraising has been very difficult. Even traditional backers of women's sports are a bit cautious about this new venture.

The commitment the players have shown, however, is invaluable. Their four-hour practices, not including travel time, shows commitment. Some women have families or are single mothers.

"The people who come to the games are devoted to it, too," said Kilker. "It's been an emotional roller coaster, but the opportunity to play is worth it all."

Severin said, "It's been building since women started playing sports. The attitude's much different now. We can prevail if we want."

Games after December 8 take place December 29 in San Diego versus the Quakes, January 12 at SF versus the Portland Wildcats, and hopefully a few away games in Hawaii on December 13 and 16, and in L.A. on January 5.

For more info on women's pro football, visit www.thewaff.com/teams/banshees, and www.womensamericanfootball.com.

For more info on women's flag football, visit: www.sfwffl.com.

Aquatic action

If there's any sport I love that's sexier and more action-packed than wrestling, it's water polo. Love those cute hats! I know, I know, they're for safety of the

players' ears, yada, yada, but they're so cute!

You've got another chance to see San Francisco's gay mixed team host the West Hollywood team, the notoriously aggressive wh2o, for a scrimmage down at the Burlingame Aquatic Center on Saturday December 8.

Enjoy a weekend trek down the Peninsula before CalTrain cuts off service. The train will let you off within walking distance of the pool.

For more info, visit www.tsunamipolo.org/ and www.wh2o.org.

Uniform follows function

Team SF has started the uniform ordering process. Team SF representatives will be at Sports Basement on selected dates, where samples will be available in various sizes for the jackets, shorts, and pants. Order forms will be there. Payments can be made by check or in cash. Credit Cards will not be accepted.

SportsBasement is located at 1301 6th Street in San Francisco. Phone number is (415) 437-0100 or visit www.sportsbasement.com for directions. Members can also get a 10 percent discount on purchases at SportsBasement. This may be a good time to look at possible purchases for your team.

Dates include Thursday, December 6 (tonight) from 6 - 8 p.m.; Sunday, December 16 from noon - 6 p.m.; and Thursday, December 20 from 6 - 8 p.m. More dates may be scheduled in 2002, but Team SF suggests you order now to ensure delivery. Team SF pins and Gay Games items will be available as well as Sydney maps and a brochure on the Gay Games.

Sydney stuffing

Gay Games Sydney reports over 6,000 registered participants! Registration for swimming and sailing is now full. The marathon is filling fast as are many other sports. Runners will be able to register and participate in the marathon once it fills up. However, Gay Games participation medals may not be available once the

quota for that sport has been met.

Chad-free elections!

New board elections were held at last Saturday's Team SF general membership meeting. Jerry Ervin has resigned but will remain involved with the Travel & Housing Committee through the Sydney Games in 2002.

The following stayed on the board: Leslie Adams, Glenn Galang, Kris Nergaard, Ross Hayduk, Irene Valesquez, Jim Oakley, and Michelle McCleer.

New members include: Chloe Arnold from Oakland - sailing, Kip Darcy from SF - sailing and FrontRunners, Don George from SF - bowling.

SF FrontRunners elections were also held for 2002. Officers elected are: President - Jeffrey Chu, Vice President - Reggie Snowden, Secretary - Eileen Murphy, and Treasurer - Steve Benne. ▼

Send your sports info to jimprov@hotmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252581
The following person(s) are doing business as Bangkok Best #2, 181 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vena Shotivayaratana. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/26/2001.
NOV. 15, 22, 29, DEC. 6, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252851
The following person(s) are doing business as Dornas Gallery For Voice, 950 Harrison Street #214, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed William T. Dornas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/06/2001.
NOV. 15, 22, 29, DEC. 6, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252709
The following person(s) are doing business as Pampas Software, 302 Ganes Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Neil Gregory Luna and Winnie Chau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/31/2001.
NOV. 15, 22, 29, DEC. 6, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252238
The following person(s) are doing business as Esquivel Delivery Service, 130 Granville Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony Esquivel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/15/2001.
NOV. 15, 22, 29, DEC. 6, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252953
The following person(s) are doing business as Jin Qing Construction Co, 2927 Balboa Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jin Qing Liang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, November 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/2001.
NOV. 15, 22, 29, DEC. 6, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 220515
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Divas. Located at: 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 5, 1998. This business was conducted by: a Business Trust: Mark Gilpin
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252973
The following person(s) are doing business as Harlin Consulting, 318 Caselli Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas H. Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 20, 1992. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540054
In the Matter of the Application of Kathleen Jean McMahon For change of Name. The application of Kathleen Jean McMahon for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kathleen Jean McMahon has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kathleen Jean McMahon-Kelly. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of January, 2002; at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 29, DEC. 6, 13, 20, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540055
In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Maude Subers Ridenour For change of Name. The application of Elizabeth Maude Subers Ridenour for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Maude Subers Ridenour has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Maude Kelly-McMahon. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of January, 2002; at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 29, DEC. 6, 13, 20, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540046
In the Matter of the Application of Teiran Lavi Bordo For change of Name. The application of Teiran Lavi Bordo for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Teiran Lavi Bordo, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Matan Lavi Bordo. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of January, 2002; at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 29, DEC. 6, 13, 20, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252979
The following person(s) are doing business as Film-Theatre Actors Exchange, 390 28th Avenue #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Craig Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, December 18, 1991. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252568
The following person(s) are doing business as SF Fusion Volleyball, 204 Cheney Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a general partnership, of said Bich-Khol Do and Joyce N. Nilo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/26/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

Home Depot

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the legislation also means allowing more time for the community to respond.

"Ammiano's legislation can slow down the process," said Linal. "I personally would love to

see something in that space, with-in reason. But as it stands they're snowballing and we're just trying to keep up; we haven't even had the opportunity to talk about what else could go in that space because the process moves so quickly."

The legislation is expected to receive a hearing before the Board of Supervisors, perhaps as early as

January. Supporters are hoping that enough supervisors will stand behind it in order to make it veto-proof.

"It's reasonable legislation," Supervisor Mark Leno told the B.A.R. "It merely allows for public hearing and public consideration of what would be a very large store. It makes good sense." ▼

Anthrax

◀ page 18

inhalation anthrax. However, the bar code data indicated that the letter went through the machine a few minutes before the senators' letters, according to New York City Health Department spokeswoman Sandra Mullin.

The letter to the business has

not been found. The business, however, has been tested for anthrax and results are not yet available.

The results of the tests on the woman and the store are expected Tuesday or Wednesday from the state laboratory in Albany, New York. Initial field tests on anthrax in the store were negative, but the store voluntarily closed. The rest of the mall remained open.

Officials at the San Francisco

AIDS Foundation told the Bay Area Reporter that they would provide gloves to clients if requested. To date, no such requests have been made, said SFAF's Redge Norton.

Five people have died from inhalation anthrax infection since the attacks began in early October. ▼

The B.A.R.'s Cynthia Laird contributed to this report.

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE & RELATED SERVICES
COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT NO. 1, RINCON
POINT-SOUTH BEACH, REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
AREA. Request for a RFP Packet: Linda Ma at (415) 749-2466 or www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfra
for additional details. San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, 770 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

BUILDING INSPECTION SEMINARS: Are you interested in the permit process, improving your building, or learning about building code enforcement? The Department of Building Inspection invites you to attend its free "Brown Bag Lunch Talks," a series of informal, general information talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001, on the third Thursday of each month from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Each session consists of 15 minutes of general discussion and questions before each topic. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

The topic for December 20, 2001 is "Fences - Requirements, Permits and Responsibilities." If you cannot attend, you may mail your comments or questions, request materials handed out, or call and speak with department staff. For further information, call (415) 558-6205.

POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION: SFPD is looking for mature men and women who want to be police officers. Women, minority and bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. Starting salary is \$49,799 a year. Applicants are paid while they attend SF Police Academy.

Applications will be available until December 14, 2001. The written examination will be given on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2002. Applications are available at all police stations in San Francisco, the SF Airport, Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant, 44 Gough Street, SF Police Academy at 350 Amber Drive, Chinese for Affirmative Action Office at 17 Walter U. Lum Place, Ella Hill Hutch Community Center at 1050 McAllister, and New College of California at 777 Valencia. Applicants may have applications mailed to them by calling 415-401-4770, or by e-mailing: sfpd_recruitment@pacbell.net

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The San Francisco International Airport is soliciting expressions of interest from qualified consultants for the performance of preliminary engineering in support of the project EIR/EIS development. The scope of work could potentially include any activities required to assist the Deputy Airport Director, Airfield Development Bureau, and Airport staff in the successful completion of the environmental evaluation process.

Note: This request for expression of interest does not constitute an invitation for sealed proposals, a request for proposals, or offers. This request is for the purpose of identifying qualified, interested firms. A copy of the letter and the expression of interest form can be found at the City's Office of Contract Administration at: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/purchase>
Expression of interest due: Friday, Dec. 14, 2001. Contact: Gigi Borromeo (650) 821-2143.

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

San Francisco Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253071

The following person(s) are doing business as: Just Fix It 1015 Pierce Street #203, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jim Stahl. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/26/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253097

The following person(s) are doing business as: Divas 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Stephen Charles Berkey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/16/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253138

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. Wizard 4032 19th St. San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Peter E. Warner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-01-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/20/2001.
NOV. 29, DEC. 6, 13, 20, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253207

The following person(s) are doing business as: Massimo Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, 122 Olmstead Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Timothy Mark Nava. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-12-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/28/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253321

The following person(s) are doing business as: Victory Man Productions, 35 Hollis Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael B. Signamant. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 3, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/03/01.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253234

The following person(s) are doing business as: SoulWind 329 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-1718. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Green. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-15-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/29/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 252923

The following person(s) are doing business as: My Tofu House 4627 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jae Hyo Sa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-09-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/09/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253075

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Cheung King Restaurant, 1936 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Kin Bun and Dina Shu Honglam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/16/2001.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253256

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wo Tang Huang Management, 1018 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wo Tang Huang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-29-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/29/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO. 223982

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: New Cheung King Restaurant. Located at 1936 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 6, 1998.

This business was conducted by: an individual, signed Peter Hao Zheng.
NOV. 22, 29, DEC. 6, 13, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR

CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Ji Young Hee. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 229 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON- SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
NOVEMBER 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253267

The following person(s) are doing business as: Spot & Clean Janitorial, 455 Bartlett Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Maria Elisa Palma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 5, 1986. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/30/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253261

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zinzino, 2355 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Pegasus Restaurant Corporation, Giulio Palma, CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/30/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253266

The following person(s) are doing business as: Glen Park Flowers, 2786 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94131-3057. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Island. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 30, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/30/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Yu Niu Zi. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1131 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253273

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hot Cookie, 407 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Ian Glazer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-17-97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/30/2001.
DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

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Because of continued organizational growth and new programs, we are currently accepting resumes for the following positions:

Manager of Overage Services to provide leadership and operational management of respective programs including Case Management. Development and implementation of program services, staff supervision, grant and budget management, daily needs oversight. MA or MSW required. Four years of staff supervision. \$45 - \$2K DOE.

Manager of Research and Evaluation to research national, state, and local trends pertaining to funding in the area of direct social services for at-risk, homeless, and runaway youth. With other members of the management team, synthesize and integrate data collection into documents for publication in journals within our field. PhD in Social Work or Psychology required. \$45 - \$2K DOE.

Coordinator of Employment Readiness and Development to oversee the direction and growth of our Avenues to Independence Program (ATI), serving homeless and runaway youth ages 18-23. Responsibilities include the career and job readiness assessment and management for high functioning homeless and runaway youth, staff supervision, management of day-to-day operations of the program including some grants management, management of budgets and finances. ATI is an innovative employment career development program, housed in a 14 bed transitional living facility. Energetic and creative thinker is a must. Three years of youth program management, and experience with homeless and runaway youth required. Masters in related field, preferably MSW. \$41-45K DOE.

LOFT Coordinator manage the Larkin Opportunities For Transition Program offering a wide range of housing options for 16 and 17 year old runaway and homeless youth. Responsibilities include supervision of all staff, volunteers, interns, development and implementation of program services, grants management, and management of budgets and finances. Provide overall clinical supervision to the program team. \$41 - 45K DOE.

Senior Case Manager to provide services to high-risk youth who have been abused, are at risk for, or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Intake and assessment, counseling, resource brokerage, follow-up and aftercare as needed. Master's in Counseling, Psychology, Social Work. \$39 - 43 K DOE.

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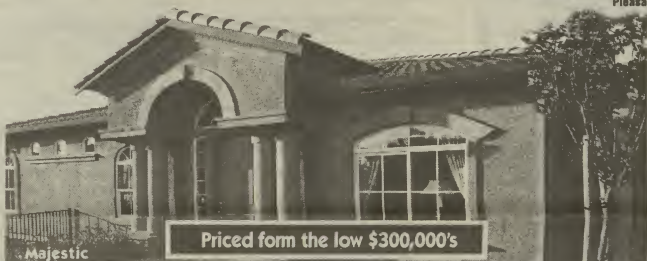
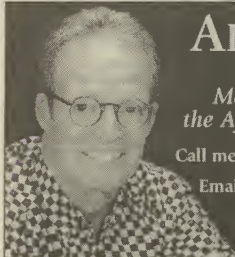
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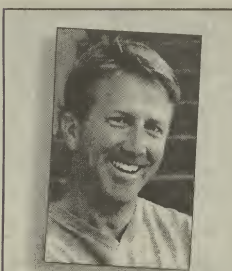
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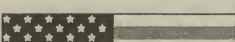
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540091

In the Matter of the Application of Stephanie Mary Bernstein aka Stephanie Mary Valiskevicius, for change of Name.

The application of Stephanie Mary Bernstein aka Stephanie Mary Valiskevicius for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Stephanie Mary Bernstein aka Stephanie Mary Valiskevicius has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to -Stephanie Mary Infante. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of February, 2002 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE: CASE NUMBER: PES-01-282615

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Mary Maudella Lawler (decedent).

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Daniel Patrick Lawler, in the Superior Court of California, San Francisco Superior Court 400 McAllister Street, Room 103, San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4512. County of San Francisco. The Petition for Probate requests that Daniel Patrick Lawler be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. A Hearing on the petition will be held on: December 24, 2001, in the Probate Department at 9:00am, room #204. The Petitioner is: Daniel Patrick Lawler.

DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION
CASE NUMBER: FL 043020

Notice to respondent Guy Moreaux. You are being sued. Petitioner's name is: Francis Ribisi. You have 30 Calendar Days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form 1282) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Notice: The restraining orders on the back are effective against both husband and wife until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them. The name and address of the court is: San Francisco Superior Court 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. The name, and address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney is: Carole S. Cullum, SBN 114743 45 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. 415- 863-5300.

DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001



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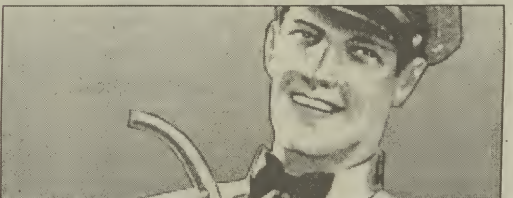
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United We Stand.

[Individually We Think.]

Everything in America has changed since the attacks of September 11. While Americans return to work and their daily lives, Washington-based special interest groups are struggling to figure out where to go from here. The Sierra Club, which earlier this year saw an increase in fundraising from its attacks on newly-inaugurated President George W. Bush, has sent a memo to their leading members instructing them to stop bashing the President. Other groups preparing to spend millions on ad campaigns to fight the "lockbox" budget wars have gone silent. Democrats and Republicans are working together.

Gay organizations are not sure how to respond. The debate in Washington now revolves around a central question – do gay groups move ahead with the "old" agenda items? Do they put gay-specific issues on hold? Or, do they rise to meet the new challenges facing gay Americans in this new period, even if they don't fit what these groups have long argued was "the gay agenda"?

What has changed most since September 11 is the rubric for debate. Throughout the years, gay activists have relied on a paradigm of victimization to formulate their agenda for advancing our community's interests... The "virtual victimization" paradigm may have fit the time. But there was a cost. Gay Americans who bought into this paradigm were left to believe that the power to live life on their own terms is outside their control. "Virtual victims" become increasingly alienated from society, more inward-driven, and less connected to a sense of personal responsibility about how their lives turn out. We'll look back on the 1990's with an almost embarrassing realization of just how self-absorbed we were. The same gay community whose political leaders demanded employment anti-discrimination laws and hate crime protections was traveling on RSVP cruises, packing warehouse circuit parties, and filling black-tie dinner halls to hear keynote addresses from Hollywood celebrities.

If the attack on September 11 shocked our nation back to reality, it might do the same for the gay movement.



Liberty Education Forum
New Insights on Gay and Lesbian Issues

For the continuation of this article and to learn more about Liberty Education Forum (LEF) go to:

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Everybody got their something
New recording artist Nikka Costa heats
up the year with her funk pop music.
page 48

Rosenberg on the record
SF Opera General Director
talks to BAR re new season.
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'Strangers' in the night
Stockard Channing, Julia
Stiles in a revenge fantasy.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 49 • 6 December 2001

Elizabeth Taylor when she was very, very bad

by Will Shank



Dance-Along
Nutcracker
Artistic Director
Jadine Louie

Beyond the valley of nutcrackers

2001 'Dance-Along
Nutcracker' is coming

by Michael Wade Simpson

Arts organizations talk a lot about community-building, but what group can beat the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, which performs at countless parades, fundraisers and community events throughout the year, offers a concert series with free tickets, and then asks the audience to join the show at their annual *Dance-Along Nutcracker*? It happens this weekend, December 8-9, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum.

Talk about inclusion: Artistic Director Jadine Louie says that audiences at their annual holiday event include not just families and coordinated exhibitionists but "wallflower gay couples, great-grandparents, people in wheelchairs, and businessmen in suits." But be forewarned: both Louie and choreographer Carolyn Carvajal, formerly of the San Francisco Opera Ballet, report that those not showing up in costume and intending to dance are nearly guaranteed to avail themselves of the tutu rentals and tiara vendors by the end of the show. This is no climb-up-on-the-stage-and-be-humiliated event, "it's like Halloween on Castro Street without the rain," according to Louie. Louie and Carvajal describe the YBC Forum, where the *Dance-Along* takes place, as intimate and fun. The boundaries of a tradi-

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Elizabeth Taylor in
1973's *Ash Wednesday*
by Larry Pierce

Offbeat
'Liz: Unhinged' series
at Yerba Buena
Center for the Arts

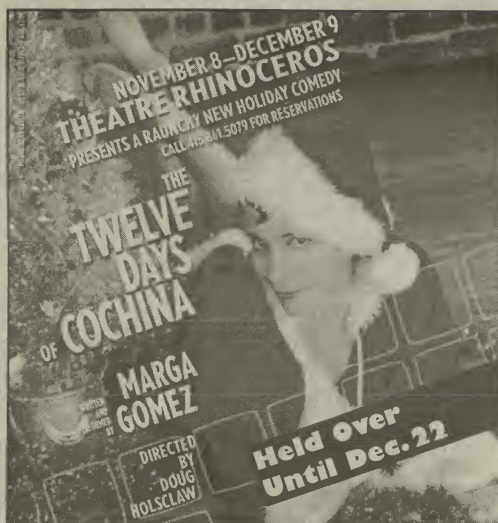
For those of you with short memories, in the 1960s there was a pop-culture phenomenon called "Taylor/Burton." After meeting in 1961 on the set of *Cleopatra* and then dumping their respective spouses, Liz and Dick became the Battling Burtons on-screen and off throughout the following decade. They made dreck (*The V.I.P.s*, *The Sandpiper*), and they took some interesting passes at classics, including a rollicking *Taming of the Shrew* with

Franco Zeffirelli in 1967. Their peak moment, although they didn't know it in 1966, was Mike Nichols' first film, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, which proved once and for all that a good director could squeeze a real performance out of Taylor. (There was never any doubt about Shakespearean-trained Burton's acting gifts, although his film choices were usually ill-considered.)

But all of that movie business aside, the

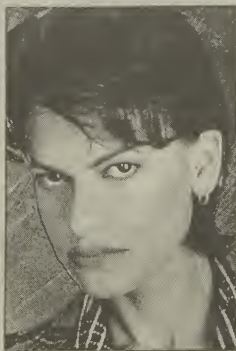
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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



by Roberto Friedman
and Vonce S. Nottenov

Fabulous performer **Sandra Bernhard** is bringing a new show to San Francisco on Monday, Dec. 10, playing the Warfield in an act she calls *The Love Machine*. By the title, she deliberately means to invoke late novelist **Jacqueline Susann** of *Valley of the Dolls* fame, who wrote the door-stop by that name. "Oh yeah, I've always been a huge fan of Jacqueline Susann," Sandra told *Out There* emphatically last week, over the phone from her home in New York City.



Sandra Bernhard brings her love.

Like *I'm Still Here*, *Damn It*, the last show Bernhard played here, the new entertainment is a blend of music and monologues. She calls the 5-piece band that will be performing with her "fab" and "eclectic," and raves on about her backup singer, **Imani Coppola**,



Imani Coppola backs Sandra up.

"half Italian and half black, which is a great combination," who also plays classical violin.

We already know that Bernhard's balls-out singer, from her great film *Without You, I'm Nothing* and various club dates, and she promises that the music this time out will range from R&B to "Bacharach-esque, but not Bacharach," to full-out rock 'n' roll. Will she do **Prince's Little Red Corvette**? "I always do it some way or another. People expect it, and it's right for every vibe."

What are the vibes like living in NYC these days, coming up on three months after 9-11? "It's loosened up a little, but people were very affected by it. I mean, two huge buildings came down and left a very big gap in the skyline. But New Yorkers are indomitable."

Sandra feels prepared for the current heavy times by her spiritual practice, the ancient Jewish mystic study of the Kabbalah, a discipline she says sustains her on a day-to-day basis. After Sept. 11, "If people didn't wind up knowing that they need something spiritual, they never will."

She'll be traveling here with her 3-and-a-half-year-old daughter, **Cicely**, who, we're assured, is turning out to be "very musical and funny, with irony and wit. She's quite a trip." Bernhard says San Francisco is one of her favorite cities, and she's sure that her baby will inherit her appreciation of "the beauty and the grooviness" of our little *shtetl*. For tickets (\$25-\$45), call (415) 421-TIXS.

Comic plight

Will someone please pick out film comedian **Robin Williams'** clothes for him before he leaves the house and goes out for a big night on the hometown? Last week at the opening of *Proof* at the Curran, Williams was wearing some kind of "wide pinstripe" pajama suit that looked straight out of the **Paula Poundstone** holding-pen collection. Then there was that Rev. Robin period he went through, with the clerical collars and the foofy glasses and whatnot.

Happily, this latest fashion atrocity was committed when



Eternally fashion-deprived Robin

everyone else, including OT and our squirrely squeeze **What'shisname**, were looking so good. Even **drenched theatre critics** not our own, crashing the afterparty just down the rain-soaked street at Postrio, looked good. So Robin, get a grip. Even **Mork** (remember '70s suspenders?) was a look.

Dauids squared

Were we in a wonderful dream when humorist **David Sedaris** turned up recently on the guest sofa of **David Letterman**, mainstay of creaky old broadcast network CBS? David told David that while he "and my boyfriend, **Hugh**" get invited to lots of fab dinner parties in Paris, their hosts are really all **Hugh's** friends, because unlike Sedaris, **Hugh** does speak French. But Sedaris blushed and revealed that he has his own special friend. Bad news: it's his periodontist.

Then Sedaris got to quit the chitchat and actually read on network TV from his latest book (everything *has* changed) a hilariously critical and queeny review of a children's Christmas pageant, held in a cafeteria still redolent of that lunchtime's lasagna. It was a lark to see Sedaris do his good bit on TV to keep the nation's spirits up, and gee, they really are hard up for Hollywood stars in the NY media megarooms.

Flower power

Example F in OT's continuing investigative series *Hack or artiste?* is the longtime offender **le fleur-hurler at SF Opera**. Now here, clearly, is a hack who can't throw. But the good news is that the compulsive weed-slinger was finally given the old heave-ho from **Someone Very High Up** at the War Memorial, who is quickly proving to have admirable pluck. The carnation-chucker can indeed heave his floral effluvia, but not if he wants to keep his ushering job. And if he can't usher, he'll have to pay for his seat. So for now the vegetable missiles have stopped. For the interim at least, the War Memorial is a no-fly zone.

Mandatory sentencing

Inquiring minds want to know: Is US Attorney General **John Ashcroft** on a "prunes only" diet?

The invitation to "**The FBI Talks Terrorism**" briefing at the Press Club last week came illustrated with pics of the famous anthrax letters to Sen. **Tom Daschle** and NBC anchor **Tom Brokaw**, someone's weird idea of a party invite.

Only in a post-9-11 world could a headline like "**Poison Gas Pumped into Senate Office Bldg.**" ever be considered the good news.

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OPERA

Looking into the future at SF Opera

General Director Pamela Rosenberg discusses 2002-'03 season

by Stephanie von Buchau

Wednesday's announcement of the 2002-2003 San Francisco Opera season was desperately needed. In a brief discussion at her War Memorial Opera House office last week, General Director Pamela Rosenberg discreetly confined her answers to questions about the current disappointing season with "No comment," accompanied by eloquent eye-rolling.

But she also indicated that the September 11 attacks were far more worrisome than bad aesthetic decisions by the previous regime. "The [economic] fallout from the attacks has been awful. The night our governor declared the bridges unsafe, half our audience didn't show up. The tendency to hibernate and worries about the economic downturn have really impacted us. This is a psychologically skittish time."

On a happier note, Rosenberg confidently admits that while not all of the upcoming season is 100 percent hers — some artists were under contract already — she takes full responsibility for the results. For an impresario who scared the pants off conservatives last January with her announced "thematic" plans, next season doesn't seem all that far out.

What is innovative is the addition to most production teams of a "dramaturg," which Rosenberg explains is not the usual historical, literary researcher of most American theater companies, but is "someone who digs in with the production team, helps analyze, figures out the kind of emotionality meant by key changes, brainstormers. Then attends rehearsals and acts like an editing eye, an extra pair of ears. Good dramaturgs are fantastic, and in Europe, conductors and directors welcome them."

Season preview

Until the typical operatic cancellations and crises occur, this is how the 2002 part of next season looks:

Puccini's *Turandot* opens the season on September 7, with Jane Eaglen in the title role (this is a Mansouri hire), Patricia Racette as Liù, and Jon Villars making his SFO debut as Calaf. Donald Runnicles conducts the puzzling David Hockney production, the one that offers virtually no place for the singers to enter properly. Rosenberg hired director Chris Alexander to cope, and reports, "He can't figure out how to get *Turandot* on stage except to have her enter with the mob. Someone suggested we fly her in." In November, Eaglen is replaced by Audrey Stottler, who, you may remember, performed the same rescue act with Gabriele Schnaut in 1998.

September 9 sees the debut of Chicago Lyric Opera's John Cox/Robert Perdziola production of Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, not heard here since 1983. Deborah Voigt (*Ariadne*), Thomas Moser (*Bacchus*) and Laura Claycomb (*Zerbinetta*) are familiar. Conductor Jun Märkl and Claudia Mahnke (Composer) are not. Rosenberg says, "Mahnke is a very fresh, young German mezzo."

• The US stage premiere of Messiaen's *Saint François d'Ass*

ise opens on September 27, with Runnicles in the pit. Willard White (St. Francis) and Chris Merritt (the Leper) sing the main male roles. Laura Aikin, who got rave reviews in Santa Fe this summer, debuts as The Angel.

Runnicles also leads Verdi's *Otello* on October 9. Rosenberg was tight-lipped about this as it was apparently cast by Mansouri, though Ben Heppner (*Otello*), Racette (*Desdemona*) and Sergei Leiferkus (*Iago*) don't seem like bad choices on paper. The production is not our familiar Ponnelle one, but a Zack Brown setting from Washington Opera, newly staged here by Emilio Sagi.

After an absence of 12 years — he didn't get along with Mansouri — Stephen Wadsworth returns with his charming *Abduction from the Seraglio* production.

Paul Groves is Belmonte, and Renata Schörr debuts as Konstanze. Peter Schneider conducts the Mozart opening on October 15.

Runnicles is in the pit again for Janacek's *Kat'a Kabanova* on November 3, with beautiful Kari-Matti singing her first Kat'a. Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* returns on November 17 after an absence of 70 years. It's sung in English because Rosenberg hopes kids will attend, even though she agrees that it's a Wagnerian opera. The "psychological" production by Richard Jones is from Welsh National Opera, while two Brits, Sara Fulgoni and Catrin Wyn-Davies, debut as brother and sister. The surprise is conductor Nicholas McGegan from Philharmonia Baroque. "Why not? I hate conductorial stereotyping. If McGegan can make baroque music transparent, why not this?"

The sexy production of Handel's *Alcina* that has been Rosenberg's calling card from Stuttgart (it was a huge success at the Edinburgh Festival) debuts November 19 with six singers you never heard of in the leading roles. The

title part is sung by Catherine Naglestad, who was told by her teachers at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to find another profession. If Rosenberg pulls this off, everybody will heave a sigh of relief. On the other hand, it's not as if we haven't heard spectacular Handel here before.

The season's last four productions open in 2003, which is too far away to speculate on in detail. We'll have to wait to see if Berlioz's oratorio *La Damnation de Faust* flies as an opera, while *Madama Butterfly* and *Il Trovatore* depend solely on who is singing and how well. Yet there is a sweet dessert promised in June 2003. Rossini's tender *La Cenerentola* is conducted by Patrick Summers, with adorable Sonia Ganassi in the title part, and sensational bel canto stylist Juan Diego Flórez making his local debut as Prince Ramiro. He's cute, too. ▼



SF Opera's Pamela Rosenberg

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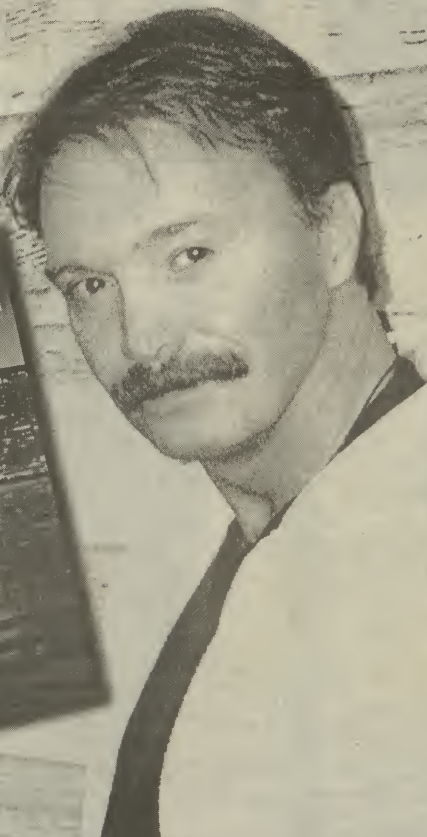
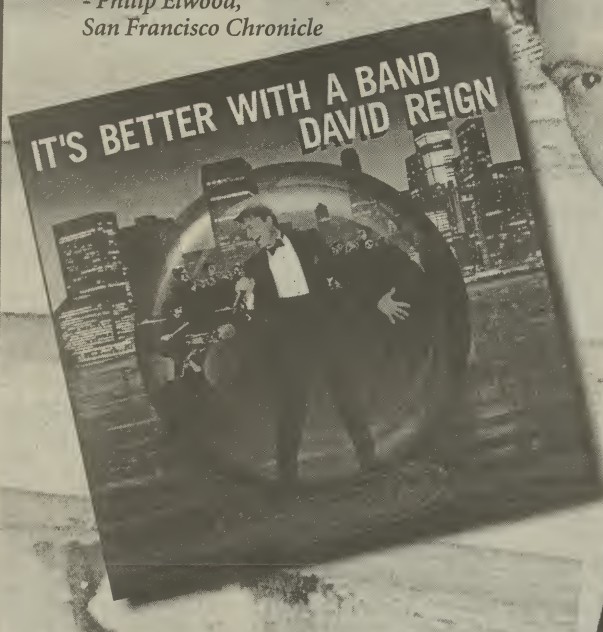


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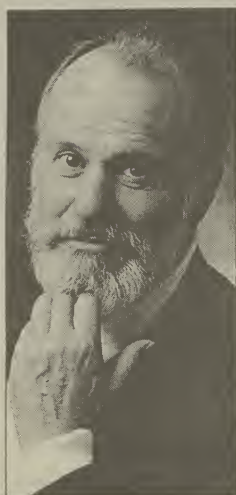
Guest conductors Zinman, Klee lead SFS

by Philip Campbell

The annual spectacle of 20-foot-tall Christmas trees in the lobbies of Davies Hall came as something of a shock last week. Talk about wake-up calls — Thanksgiving arrived too fast this year, and now we have to deal with the majors. Without doubt, we will soon get in the holiday spirit, but I, for one, was relieved to settle in for the concert itself and find that it was blessedly free of seasonal cheer.

Conductor David Zinman, a frequent guest of the San Francisco Symphony since his debut in 1976, returned after an absence of two years. His program was well-planned and mostly well-played. The links between Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* and the Symphony No. 1 by Brahms were immediately apparent, and the relative brevity of the evening left some time for post-concert reflection.

Zinman is a solid leader, currently Music Director of the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, and well-known by his discography of over 80 recordings. I still prize his sumptuous readings of Rimsky-Korsakof on an early Philips compact disc. He is also a champion of



Guest conductor David Zinman

American composers, but he was thinking in German last week — albeit with an accent.

The full string orchestra version of Schoenberg's chamber work *Verklärte Nacht* was heard here as recently as 1998, though there is little chance audiences will tire of it. A beautiful and intense work, allowing freedom for interpretive license, this tale of two lovers who come to a spiritual understanding during an anxious nocturnal walk is always welcome.

It is a score that would seem a natural for Michael Tilson Thomas, and I would love to hear his take on it some day. Zinman was going for the big, lush, upholstered sound pioneered by Herbert von Karajan, and, while the musicians were game enough, the results seemed oddly impersonal.

The chamber setting conveys more of the nervousness and angularity of the piece, but the orchestral version can also be very passionate. Zinman, however, clearly wanted beautiful sound over strong emotion. The performance sounded lovely indeed, if homogenized, and the audience responded enthusiastically. This was program music without a specific program, and it worked at well enough.

The Brahms First, which comprised the second half of the program, was more driven and fiery than usual, but Zinman made the relationship of both works to the Wagner of the *Ring Cycle* (especially the love music) easily recognizable.

The first movement of the Brahms was exceptionally brilliant and, some idiosyncratic directorial touches aside, very exciting. The Andante was a little malformed, but the orchestra played sympathetically. If Zinman proceeded to rush the players off their seats in the brief fourth movement, the Finale was triumphant. There had been some poor entries and clunkers before the conclusion, but this performance possessed all the muscle the Schoenberg lacked.

Star power

The previous week could have used some of that raw energy, or even the evergreen garlands that

now deck the halls. They would have at least given some visual distraction during conductor Bernhard Klee's disappointing visit.

Of course, few in the audience were there to see him. The appearance of Russian violinist Vadim Repin was the big event,



Violinist Vadim Repin

and he didn't let his adoring crowd down. His reading of the lovely Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26 by Max Bruch may have skimmed a little on delicacy, but it was a warm-hearted display of virtuoso technique. Two encores sealed the deal. Repin is a bona fide star, and he deserved the tumultuous standing ovation.

The concert opened with a promising SFS premiere, Jan Klusak's *Variations on a Theme by Gustav Mahler*. The Czech composer, born in 1934, was previously unknown to me, and some of his ruminations on one of Mahler's most famous movements, the Adagio of the Fifth Symphony, were truly interesting. Still, the statement of the theme, almost verbatim, was still the finest part of the score, and some of the variations were just parodistic Webern. Klee was practically invisible in Repin's shadow, and his real chance to command attention unfortunately fizzled.

This week sees the return of MTT after hiatus, and the first of two weeks of concerts that remind us of why we cherish his presence on the podium. In two different programs, one celebrating Italian Mavericks covering some 300 years, and another dedicated to Pan-American Mavericks from the early 20th to the early 21st centuries, our fearless leader will conduct five SFS premieres and one world premiere.

How anyone can call Ottorino Respighi (*The Pines of Rome*) a maverick will have to be revealed by the maestro, but if anyone can make a convincing argument, it is MTT. In spite of all the decorations, it looks like Symphony concerts at Davies Hall will provide safe haven from the upcoming consumerism of the holiday season and the grimmer reality of the war. It will be a comfortable place to reflect on what the season is really about, and how good music can see us through. ▼



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OPERA

'Widow' dressing

Operetta turned farce by SF Opera

by Stephanie von Buchau

While sitting through that horror at the War Memorial Opera House that San Francisco Opera is calling *The Merry Widow*, I was reminded of a colleague who, assigned to write movie reviews at the *Los Angeles Times*, was immediately assaulted by Hollywood moguls who claimed that she hated everything. She was finally goaded into replying: "If you guys would make good movies, I'd write good reviews."

While completely agreeing with her, I must also admit that relentlessly negative reviews are as tiring to write as they are to read. So rather than produce a laundry list of *The Merry Widow*'s faults, I'm going to try to explain what the piece really is and why you should be as upset as I was at the way SFO treats it. (And excuse me; I know that Pamela Rosenberg is not responsible for casting or productions this season, but she is General Director and should have exercised some control over a piece which seems deliberately conceived to embarrass her.)

Anja Silja, the finest singing actress since Maria Callas and a worldly woman of great sexual allure, once told me that her favorite piece of romantic music theater was Franz Lehár's *Die Lustige Witwe*. "But," she added with a conspiratorial giggle, "don't tell my husband [conductor Christoph von Dohnányi]. Like all men, he prefers *Die Fledermaus*."

I understood exactly what she meant, since *Die Lustige Witwe* is also a favorite of mine. Of course, a woman, even a vastly experienced one like Silja, would prefer Lehár's shenanigans and sensual Austro-Hungarian score to the clever but brittle clockwork of Strauss *fls*. A couple of years after this conversation, Silja sang Hanna Glawari at the Blossom Festival, the dialogue in English, the musical numbers in German. Her famous wobble above the staff makes for some uncomfortable moments in the "Viljalied," but her Tallulah-like delivery of the dialogue is heaven.

I know we were all raised after WWII to hate everything German, but, contrary to what we were told, German is not an ugly, guttural language when properly pronounced. There is simply no way to translate Danilo's lazy self-satisfaction when he drawls, "*Man tut was man kann*," or the whiplash insult of his "*Compliment!*" Still, the argument goes, this is an American opera house, and nobody will get the jokes if they aren't in English. Well, we didn't get most of the verbal jokes anyway because Wendy Wasserstein's amplified dialogue was not always understandable (supertitles for the sung parts only), and when it was, it wasn't that funny.

By the yard

Die Lustige Witwe is a romantic operetta; *The Merry Widow*, at least as conceived by Lotfi Mansouri, is a farcical one. He doesn't trust the verbal jokes, either, trundling out yards of physical shtick, including the most elaborately humiliating fat joke I've ever seen on a major stage. If that makes it into the PBS video, San Francisco will lose its reputation as a smart, sophisticated, tolerant



Yvonne Kenny as Hanna Glawari and Bo Skovhus as Danilo in San Francisco Opera's production of *The Merry Widow*

town. Basically, Mansouri has turned the delicious, sexy *Die Lustige Witwe* into a coarse, vulgar Broadway show circa 1950.

Lehár's beautifully honed 80-minute score, with its gorgeously sensual tunes, hasn't even been respected. Conductor Erich Kunzel refused to play the overture that Lehár wrote for another occasion, but he acquiesced to the Douglas Gamley-arranged ballet that opens the interminable Act III, and to the addition of a number for the comic Njegus, which Elijah Chester could barely sing. Worst of all, Mansouri and Richard Bonyng, his partner in crime 25 years ago, inserted a coloratura number from the same composer's *Paganini* as a splashy finale for Bonyng's wife, Joan Sutherland.

Poor Yvonne Kenny gamely fought the piece, but it conquered her in the end, spoiling what was a low-key but attractive portrayal of the wise and winsome widow. She was also overpowered by Thierry Bosquet's costumes and Michael Yeargan's sets. I don't know the gender preferences of the production team but, as we often say about badly-dressed divas, do they ever need some gay friends with good taste.

Lehár wrote the part of Prince Danilo for the Viennese operetta star Louis Treumann, a slender, mustachioed buffo tenor with a light touch and magnetic stage personality. When they do the operetta in English, it is automatically assumed that a tenor cannot be sexy enough for the leading role,

so it is usually cast with an overbearing baritone who thinks more highly of himself than his talents warrant. I will grant that Bo Skovhus has great shoulders and a certain amount of creepy charm, but he is too tense to be an ideal Danilo, to say nothing of altering the sound picture with that darker voice. When he and Kenny were left to their own devices, however, and not burdened with unamusing stage business, they did stir up some sensuality, as did the equally miscast Angelika Kirchschlager (the finest Octavian I've ever seen, but too gauche as an ambassador's wife) and Gregory Turay as the secondary lovers. Their "Pavillon" duet was the evening's musical highlight.

Rumor has it that Mansouri plans extensive changes before the production returns in January with Frederica von Stade and Rodney Gilfry. This is either an insult to the current singers or a sign of self-awareness on the director's part. In either case, I think we've seen the last of Mansouri at the War Memorial. At about the two-hour mark — the show runs for three-and-a-half hours — all I could think of was what Anja Silja, noted for her tart tongue, would have said to this travesty of the musical-theater piece that she and I love so much. Nothing printable is my guess. ▼

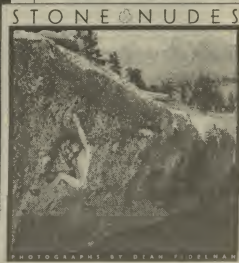
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Shufflin' off to Stalinist Russia

42nd Street Moon's 'Leave It to Me!'

by Richard Dodds

Back when a musical could run a single season and still be considered a hit, topical humor made theatrical sense. But it's not the references to little-remembered personalities of the day that date *Leave It to Me!*, but references to those we know so well.

In the brief time between the show's Broadway opening in 1938 and a national tour the next year, an appearance by a friendly Joseph Stalin had to be eliminated, and a program note added that the show bore no relationship to current events. Even back in 1938, the Kennedys were a popular national preoccupation, and the musical makes light of the size of their brood — a joke that would lose its humor with the death of the first Kennedy son during World War II.

But enough time has passed to enjoy the various historical curiosities in Sam and Bella Spewak's comically concocted libretto, though it's the score by Cole Porter that provides most of the pleasure in 42nd Street Moon's production. This is the kind of musical that the troupe's staged concert productions best illuminate, and director Greg MacKellan's stylish production of *Leave It to Me!* is a further example of that truth.

Perhaps inspired by Joseph Kennedy's financially derived appointment as ambassador to Britain, the Spewaks came up with the story of a milquetoast businessman from Kansas whose political contribution to the Democrats (and an ambitious wife) earn him the unwanted ambassadorship to Russia. He falls under the sway of a self-serving newspaperman, who has his own reasons for wanting the ambassador recalled, but their attempts at failure repeatedly backfire.

There is more book and less music than one might hope, so when one of Porter's tunes comes along — even when it's almost ridiculously gratuitous — it is quite welcome. The shoehorn gets its biggest workout on "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," which never-

theless made a star of Mary Martin, but unfortunately is ineffectually delivered by Murphy Hart as a mogul's mistress.

"Most Gentlemen Don't Like Love," the other hit to emerge from the score, is only slightly more relevant, but it comes to surer life in veteran Darlene Popovic's hands as the ambassador's social-climbing wife, a role first played by Sophie Tucker. Popovic also merrily leads the company in the obscure but fun "I'm Taking the Steps to Russia," which features Jayne Zaban's jaunty choreography. Musical director Dave Dobrusky does yeoman's work at the piano.

Not all the songs are without plot logic. Richard Pardini, winning as the hapless ambassador, sings of an archly romanticized

Topeka in the gloriously silly "I Want to Go Home." Surprisingly, the ballads fail to make much connection, probably more a Porter problem since Steve Rhyne and Caroline Altman are appealing as the romantic leads.

Leave It to Me! is intriguing as a time capsule both of the musical theater and historical events. Decades before Mel Brooks gave us a song-and-dance Hitler, Cole Porter and company gave Stalin a little jig. Ironically, it was when Stalin made his pact with Hitler that his musical-comedy jig was up. ▼

Leave It to Me! will run at the Eureka Theatre through Dec. 23. Tickets are \$22-\$25. Call 255-8207.



Steve Rhyne, Darlene Popovic, and Richard Pardini in *Leave It to Me!*

Threadbare 'Tapestry'

Revue of Carole King songs at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

If you were around in 1971, chances are the songs from Carole King's *Tapestry* provided a memorable part of your life's soundtrack. Everyone, it seemed, owned a copy of this LP, and with radio stations turning most of the songs into Top-40 hits, the songwriter-turned-singer became a kind of urban earth mother for the post-Vietnam, pre-disco era.

As representatives of that generation begin to focus more on the performance of their 401-k plans, King's songs have been pulled together into a revue, also titled *Tapestry*, that promises a comfortable nostalgic rush. The New Conservatory Theatre Center is presenting this live jukebox as part of its *In Concert* series.

King got her start in the early '60s writing a string of hits for other performers. She and partner Gerry Goffin were well-tuned to what came across on AM radio, though the easy musical and emotional



Thena Yacap-Zaragoza, Beth Elliot, and Lara Bruckman in *Tapestry*

hooks that work on radio don't necessarily adapt well into theatrical pieces. That's a big drawback with a production like *Tapestry*.

As genial as the six performers are at New Conservatory, they

generally lack the chops to turn King's three-minute radio anthems into vital theatrical experiences. Nor does the structure of the show, at least as realized by director Earl Weaver, provide the

contexts that could help the songs resonate with the power of churned-up memories.

The show is at its best when the cast is singing together. There is a playfulness to the group work on "Locomotion" that lifts the production from the gauzy blandness of so many of the numbers, and "Smackwater Jack" also benefits from the harmonies of a novel vocal arrangement. But the single-piano arrangements performed by musical director Alan Fricke sound thin, and that doesn't help the overall situation.

Beth Elliott, Lara Bruckman, Wade Crosson, Jorge Hernandez, Thena Yacap-Zaragoza, and Sean Ray each have moments when the material serves their talents. But it's not enough to lift *Tapestry* beyond the theatrical equivalent of easy-listening background music. ▼

Tapestry will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Jan. 6. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.



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THEATRE

The mathematics of madness

'Proof' adds up at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

It's usually not considered a promising sign when theatergoers can be overheard at intermission talking about the scenery. But the realistically detailed back porch set for *Proof*, once a commonplace style for Broadway plays, has become something of a novelty to be remarked upon.

So, too, is the play that inhabits John Lee Beatty's set at the Curran Theatre. David Auburn's current Broadway hit is a rare contemporary example of the Well-Made Play to find both critical and popular success. It is a family drama, with a hint of mystery, that unfolds without elliptical allusions, nihilistic eruptions, or absurdist conundrums.

What you do get is a thoughtful drama that is tidily constructed, knows when to laugh, and delivers an ending of plausible happiness. It is not a big-stakes story, and no one is likely to declare that the future of American drama rests in Auburn's hands. But the pleasures are real as Auburn confidently leads us into a family battlefield where genius and madness are the weapons.

Genius and madness were co-existing attributes in the mathematician father of Catherine, and now, a few days after his death, she is unsure which of these traits she has inherited. Her sullen, non-conformist ways have all but convinced her yuppified sister Claire that Catherine has a mental illness, a belief that is strengthened when Catherine produces a groundbreaking mathematical proof that



Chelsea Altman and Stephen Kunken in *Proof*: the Well-Made Play.

she claims to have written.

Rest easy. This mathematical backdrop makes no particular demands on the audience, although the notion of math nerds provides a lot of the humor. One of those nerds, with a veneer of hunkiness, is Hal, a former student of Catherine's father who is helping sort through his papers. He becomes a crucial catalyst in the battle between sisters.

On Broadway, the role of Catherine was memorably played by Mary-Louise Parker, who, though older than the character's 25 years, created a woman of a quirky and complex persona. In the touring production, the age-appropriate Chelsea Altman doesn't capture these nuances, but there is a strength to her performance that finally gives life to this intriguing character.

The skillful Robert Foxworth, late of TV's *Falcon Crest*, has a grizzled appeal as Catherine's father, who turns up in a flashback and a fantasy scene. Tasha Lawrence brings just the right edge of faint ridiculousness to the annoyingly normal Claire. And Stephen Kunken is fine as Hal, who's hip enough to play drums in a rock band made up of mathematicians.

Director Dan Sullivan has done an admirable job of recreating the spirit of the Broadway production of *Proof*, a play that proves that there is life in comforting theatrical traditions. ▼

Proof will run at the Curran Theatre through Dec. 23. Tickets are \$27-\$62. Call 512-7770.

Dance-Along

◀ Arts cover

tional proscenium-style theatre simply don't exist.

"Everyone's a little giddy and nervous at the beginning," said Louie, who has been Artistic Director of the Band for five years, and has shifted the show in ways that she hopes makes for a better flow. "People come to sit and watch and listen," she says, "but, in no time, there are crowds hopping up and down, conga lines forming spontaneously, real dancers trying out lifts and non-dancers getting silly. For two hours, at least, audiences enter a world where gender, age, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual identity, physical appearance — and even talent — are of no concern."

Don't come expecting the entire musical ballet, though. The band splices numbers from the familiar Suite throughout the program, allowing opportunities for the audience to rest, and for the band to take the show in different directions. "It's like a variety show," said Carvajal, who choreographs the numbers in these segments using as many dancers and other performers as she can get her hands on. This year, she has put together a crew of non-professional ballet dancers, a baton twirler, singers, an accordion player, belly dancers and more. The program will feature Nutcracker soldiers, a dance to a suite of



Dance-Along Nutcracker band member Billy Green with trombone

Christmas carols, a demented circus number, songs from *White Christmas*, and a show within a show, telling the story of bears who come to dance in a circus as if they were back in the forest, free in the moonlight.

Creature features

Inspired by the *Sing-Along Messiah*, the first *Dance-Along Nutcracker* was produced in 1985. Each version is different. Recent incarnations have included tributes to *Fantasia* and outer-space movies of the past. Longtime band members fondly recall one production, according to Louie, in the form of an episode of *I Love Lucy*, in which Marga Gomez played Ricky Ricardo. The show has been presented at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts since 1994.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band was

named "official band of the City of San Francisco" in 1998, in honor of its 20th anniversary. The first openly gay musical organization ever, it was formed in 1978 by Jon Sims, inspiring the formation of lesbian and gay bands, choruses and performing troupes around the world.

"Come, dance your dream," invited Carvajal. If ever there were a year where a little dreaming, dancing and silliness were called for, this could be it. ▼

The 2001 *Dance-Along Nutcracker* will be held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on Saturday, December 8, and Sunday, December 9, in matinee performances at 2:30 p.m., plus a special gala on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call (415) 978-ARTS.

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Elizabeth Taylor in an outrageous metallic headdress in 1968's *BOOM!*

Liz: Unhinged

◀ Arts cover

Burtons specialized in being *fabulous*. They were larger than life, with their only peers in the tabloids the likes of Jackie and Ari. He bought her jewels of outrageous value. They cruised the Mediterranean endlessly. They had a ski home in Gstaad. Coffeeable mags like *Life* and *Look* trailed them to their movie sets; his *Night of the Iguana* location shoot in Puerto Vallarta created a whole new international resort.

As a result of the Burton/Taylor Phenomenon, studios and directors craved and pursued them. It didn't seem to matter whether or not there was anything for Taylor and Burton to do on screen, or how bad the screenplay was, Hollywood just wanted them. No less a talent than Vincente Minnelli made the horrible *The Sandpiper*, a 1965 soap starring Liz as a painter of terrible seascapes who somehow manages to afford an A-frame right on the beach at Big Sur, and with Burton as a married minister ready to be seduced by

the voluptuous bohemian. Just as one example.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts has assembled a few more, some of which trail Liz into the early years of the 1970s, when she really bottomed out. *Liz: Unhinged* presents, on Friday evenings this month, four of the worst movies ever made, with or without Elizabeth Taylor. But like a pile-up on the freeway, such cinematic disasters are compelling, and the desire to observe them, and to consider why she made them (at least for Liz fans like me), is strong.

Sissy story

BOOM! was directed in 1968 by the usually respectable American expatriate Joseph Losey, who made the homoerotic *The Servant*, and would go on to direct a memorable screen version of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Based on a play by Tennessee Williams, who also wrote the screenplay, *BOOM!* is the story of Sissy Goforth, a thoroughly repugnant character who is dying of consumption on a fabulous Mediterranean island and is not going gentle into that good night. Along comes a wandering poet, who may be the Angel of Death (Burton, looking as if he has already started drinking himself to death). He becomes her last lover. For reasons known only to the filmmakers, Noel Coward appears in early scenes as an aged effete friend of the Arch Bitch, but his career was over by then, and he must have gone for the gold of the perceived glamour of a Taylor/Burton project. The inexplicable title (it was originally called *Goforth*) is indicative of the pretentious tone of the movie, which with its blue-chip credentials aspires to high art, or at least an adaptation of high literature. But the result is indecipherable, and the nasty heroine is like Alexandra del Lago of *Sweet Bird of Youth*, but without the humor. Liz is very tan and looks great in outrageous metallic headdresses.

That same year, Losey dug his grave deeper by filming *Secret Ceremony* with Taylor and Mia Farrow, fresh from her success in *Rosemary's Baby*, as two psychotic women who may or may not be mother and daughter. Mia is Cenci, a grown woman who acts like a mentally retarded teenager wearing a bad brunette wig. ("Unhinged" is the word applied to Cenci by another character.) Liz is Leonora, a British hooker with sort of an American accent (you know Liz!) onto whom the wealthy Cenci latches because Liz resembles Mia's dead mother. It goes on like that for almost two hours, with a bearded Robert Mitchum looking as if he had stumbled onto the wrong set when he appears as Mia's incestuous stepfather. The film is supposed to be a deep psychological study, but it is unintelligible.

In 1972, Liz starred in *X, Y, and Zee*, in which Brian Gutton directed our gal along with Michael Caine and Susannah York in a painful (for the audience) love triangle. Since Yerba Buena's promotional literature gives away the ending, I am not saying too much when I let you in on the dirty little secret about the lesbian subplot, which is, as far as I know, Taylor's only girl-on-girl moment on screen. Well, it actually happens off-screen, but it's worth going just to see how awkwardly the whole thing is handled back in the bad old days when being a dyke could get you into big trouble (see *The Children's Hour*, *The Fox*, or *The Killing of Sister George*). Until that happens, the greatest pleasures come from see-


page 48 ▶

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FILM

Julia Stiles and Stockard Channing in *The Business of Strangers*: a promising premise not fully pursued.

Executive privilege

Conducting 'The Business of Strangers'

by David Lamble

Actor Aaron Eckhart was so believably slimy as a corporate weasel out to get his buddy fired while heaping humiliation on several innocent bystanders in Neil LaBute's corrosive satire, *In the Company of Men*, that the role earned him not awards or nominations, but instead threats of physical violence on the part of the film's more outraged female detractors. At least the cast of Patrick Stettner's *The Business of Strangers*, opening Friday, doesn't have to fear getting slapped around by their audiences. Probably only a handful of critics will be wrestling (metaphorically, at least) with why Stettner's female revenge fantasy fails to live up to its nasty premise.

A hard-bitten executive, Julie Styron (Stockard Channing, who looks like she would be more comfortable chewing on a fat stogie than spitting out Stettner lines such as "Everybody eats shit. It's just a question of degree") is planning a business summit when she is blind-sided by the failure of her young assistant Paula Murphy (Julia Stiles) to show up on time with some important documents.

Firing Paula, Julie then sinks into a funk when she learns that the head of her company is paying her a surprise visit. Thinking she's about to be canned, Julie seeks out a young shark of a headhunter, Nick Harris (Frederick Weller), with just the hint of mixing business with pleasure.

Just when you think you know what you're in for, Paula shows up to give the story a dark spin. Julie takes pity on her ex-assistant, tells her she's not fired after all, and the two go down to the hotel bar. Not surprisingly, Nick pops up for a nightcap. Whereupon Paula confides to Julie that only did she and Nick attend the same college, but that Nick forced himself on her vulnerable roommate, a crime that was never reported, but that Paula suddenly feels like revenge.

The women get Nick up to

Julie's room, where Paula slips him what used to be called a Mickey, but which she refers to as a "date rape" drug. With Nick out cold, Paula strips him down to his boxers and starts to write her indictment on his hairless white bod with an indelible marker. Her own pulse racing, Julie desperately tries to discover if Nick still has one.

Strong material

So there you have it — nervous businesswoman about to run off a cliff with a deranged young vixen and a possibly dead young man to keep her company until the cops come. You can just imagine what that defiant misanthrope LaBute might do with this premise, or better still, young Joe Orton in his prime. *The Business of Strangers* would be best served as an Ortonesque bedroom farce. Instead, young Stettner slips the audience a Mickey and gets all speechy on us. Paula accuses Julie of wimping out on her chance to dispose of Nick's *corpus delectable*.

Paula: "I thought you wanted to get caught. The excitement of being exposed and humiliated, maybe a little rough stuff. That's why we're here, isn't it?"

Julie: "We're here because you're a profoundly disturbed young woman."

Paula: "If you were a man, you'd see a dominatrix twice a week. All CEOs have one, but you're a woman, so you don't do things like that."

Gag me with a spoon, or rather with Susie Bright 101. *The Business of Strangers* wimps out by not taking its vicious premise to the end of the line. Benefiting from our post-9-11 belief that any airport hotel would be empty enough to allow these shenanigans to go on undisturbed, Stettner cuts his cards from a stacked deck, leaving us with a softcore fantasy instead of a dark bedtime story. Channing (a female Gene Hackman) is believable in anything she's in, Stiles comes off too much like the young Muriel Hemingway to make her dark side convincing, and Weller manages the unenviable task of having to just

lie there and think of England with considerable aplomb. ▼

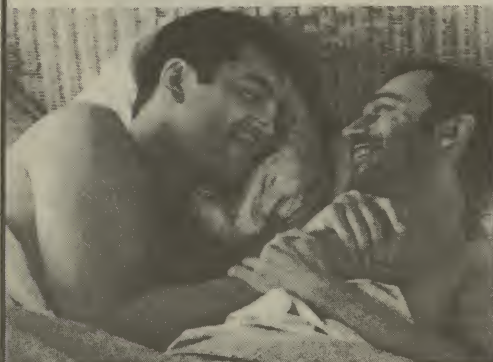
The Business of Strangers opens wide on Friday, December 7.

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All things must pass

But they all come back in December reruns

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It is the season of post-sweeps reruns. From now through Epiphany, expect to see *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and lots of football. Now is the time to catch shows you missed first time around. We suggest Fox's 24 (just picked up for the full season), CBS's *The Agency* and ABC's *Philly* (another full season nod). If you stopped watching *Will & Grace* in favor of *Ellen*, it's okay to watch two gay shows — especially since *W&G* continues to be hilarious (Eric McCormack so deserved that Emmy; is he *sure* he isn't gay?) and *Ellen* is hit or miss.

Soaps are always new, if not fresh; only the plotlines rerun. It's been a year now that we have been watching the smart and sensitive Eden Reigel, Emmy-nominated for the difficult role of soapdom's only lesbian, Bianca Montgomery, on *All My Children*. (In real life, Reigel's sister is queer, which she says has helped her portrayal.) In recent weeks we have eagerly awaited each episode, as it seemed Bianca had finally met the girl of her dreams in the cute-but-tough butchette Frankie Stone (Elizabeth Hendrickson). Like all real lesbians, Bianca declared her love for Frankie within nanoseconds of knowing her. But then the defensive Frankie broke down and told Bianca she loved her, too. Their

eyes met, they touched hands, they held each other...

It started to look like a happy ending was in sight for our heroine. But in the soap world, true love comes on fast and furious, never runs smooth, and rarely has staying power.

Like Bianca's mom, Erica, we all knew Frankie was up to something. We knew she was a con artist. But we also believed she loved Bianca. The problem might have been queer fear, or just fear of letting anyone too close. But Frankie scored some dope and hooked up with J.R. Chandler (recently returned from Swiss aging school, where he went from a troubled 14-year-old to a hunky college lad). One toke over the line, and Frankie and J.R. were back at her place, naked. And in walks Bianca.

A few hours later, Frankie turns up murdered — and the prime suspect is Erica, who was found with the body and a smoking gun, and had been threatening to kill Frankie for weeks. But is Erica guilty, or covering for the person she thinks is the real murderer — Bianca?

We can't disguise our dismay at the *coitus interruptus* demise of Frankie, since Bianca has really had bad girlfriend karma of late.

And we always worry when lesbians and murder get linked on TV (call it a *Basic Instinct*). We will miss Bianca's sweet way of leering at Frankie, and Frankie's adorable responses. But we have to admit the plot is compelling. We also have to admit it bears close scrutiny. Stay tuned.

Missing person

We thought it must truly be the end times when Vice President

Dick Cheney came out of hiding at week's end to appear on ABC's *20/20* for an interview with Diane Sawyer (gorgeous and a former Nixon speechwriter, Sawyer's

charms lured Dr. Strangelove from the bunker). We

remember when Bush *pere* was Reagan's V-P and disappeared for two years during Iran-Contra. *Donesbury* lampooned the MIA Bush for months. But there's been little question about the bizarre disappearance of Cheney since 9-11.

Let's anyone think the mystery was resolved, it wasn't. The ever-dismissive Cheney was talking war — dissing Osama and Al-Qaeda, and plotting the takeover of the Afghani government. And yes, he's still rubbing his hands in that creepy Goebbels-like fashion. We presume he is back in an undis-

closed location once more. Maybe he's Osama bin Laden. Has anyone ever seen the two of them together? A little fake hair, a turban, and *voilà* — one rich evildoer looks much like the next.



Attorney General John Ashcroft

And then there's that other paragon of virtue, who we wish would head for the bunker, John "Screw Civil Liberties" Ashcroft. When we are all carrying identity cards and have various identifying patches sewn to our clothing, we hope those Democratic senators who voted to approve him enjoy living in a police state. Even some conservatives are getting nervous. When Bob Barr (R-Georgia) says he thinks the Attorney General has overstepped his bounds, you know it's bad.

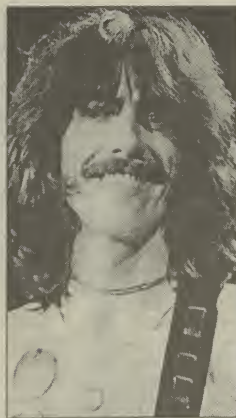
Then there's the news from Bushville that the White House will be closed to guests this holiday season. "Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures," quoth Bush. Apparently, only the rest of us are supposed to get back to normal. Washington remains hunkered (or in Cheney's case, bunkered) down for the duration.

The Bushes didn't even light the Christmas tree, Alma Powell did that. Nice idea, but isn't she the wife of the Secretary of State, not the President?

Kind of makes us glad NBC's *The West Wing* is there each week to remind us of what *could* be. We particularly appreciated the Thanksgiving episode, which featured Indian Affairs politics (with real-live Native Americans, no less) and was deeply moving. (And may we reiterate how much Alison Janney deserved that Emmy she won. Stellar acting.) If *WW* doesn't bring you to tears each week, you aren't paying attention, or you aren't human.



Martin Sheen in *The West Wing*



George Harrison in 1974

Goodbye George

Speaking of tears, sorrow has many faces. We have certainly learned that lesson since 9-11. It wasn't a tragedy last week when former Beatle George Harrison died after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Not cataclysmic, like 9-11. Not even dramatic, like the murder of fellow Beatle John Lennon exactly 21 years ago. It was merely sad.

It's almost a relief to feel this kind of ordinary pain, the loss of an icon we felt we knew, whose talents were many and whose vocations were realized. To feel the nostalgia, relive the memory of all his music had meant in our own lives. Taken too soon, certainly, and with many years of exploration of his talents left, but these days there's an eerie comfort in a death that's expected and not feared by its victim. Harrison died as he lived, with full knowledge of what lay ahead; and with no fear of it. That's a strength to value in these days of letters tinged with anthrax, and airplanes flying into buildings. The inchoate fear we have all felt in recent months has seemed to preclude that, so sure have we all been that our time is not, should not, be up. Watching the death of someone who knew his clock was ticking out and was prepared to leave this world is profound.

Nevertheless, as news clips rolled and obituaries played on TV networks, it seemed so very poignant that this man who had never sought nor expected celebrity should be so publicly memorialized by those of us he never knew. Yet it's a fitting coda that TV brought the Beatles to us, and TV will also usher them on.

The Beatles were so singular: super-superstars, like Elvis Presley, Sinatra, Mozart. Those of us who witnessed that first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* ("Ladies and gentlemen — the Beatles!") felt the *frisson*. It wasn't Neil Armstrong landing on the moon, but it sure felt like history. As Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair noted at Harrison's death, the Beatles shaped a generation and more.

The Beatles began the TV celebrity phenomenon in earnest. One might never have been fortunate enough to see a live Beatles concert (there weren't as many as folks think), but nearly everyone saw them on TV. The Beatles blazed a trail that began in black-and-white and ended in vivid color. From Liverpool to London to New York to India and back, we watched them onstage and off from our living rooms, and for generations of music lovers it seemed as if they would always be there, that even after John Lennon's death, there would always be buzz about an impending reunion concert. Not now.

next page ►

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FILM

Stop the presses! Man has big dick!

Ron Jeremy, schlepper with a schlong

by John F. Karr

There's a good chance you'll enjoy the new documentary, *Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy*, opening Friday at the Lumiere. Me, I'd be satisfied with a photograph of the legend's hard-on. It is, after all, what made the veteran of over 1,600 heterosexual porn films rich and famous. And in America, to be rich, famous and big-dicked is about as far as you can go. Unless what you really want is to make it in the movies. Real ones, not porn. And that, folks, is the Ron Jeremy story.

Porn Star certainly enumerates the performer's other accomplishments, and keeps an impartial tone while detailing Mr. Jeremy's endless eccentricities and Rabelaisian appetites. But all that's incidental; the guy's got an awesome dick. It's beautifully shaped, hard whenever it needs to be, and cums whenever it has to. Now, I think having a big dick is a perfectly delightful reason to be famous. Does it justify an 80-minute documentary about the person it hangs off? Not necessarily.

It's just that, if we're not gonna see this dick for more than five, albeit hard, seconds, and there's not gonna be any actual sex in the film, the rest of the Ron Jeremy story teeters perilously close to the So What category. He's worked hard, he's made a financial success, had longevity in his field, and is on great terms with his family, although his incessant chasings after fame, food and sex have left no time for the sort of long-term personal relationships that many think are the final stamp of a well-adjusted person; so Ron may not be "well-adjusted," but he's well-greased.

If you don't mind having to go to a movie theatre for what you could get on the Biography channel, you'll like *Porn Star*. But with an additional 20 minutes, what could have been a breezy hour of TV nearly becomes a Who Cares ordeal, despite some groovy music by Carven Knowles, and the nimble direction and editing of Scott J. Gill. Admirably, the director doesn't moralize about his subject's life, but his gloss on the porn industry sidesteps the issues that could deflect attention from The Legend.

The Thing itself

Still, the Thing, the one important Thing beside which all else is just window dressing, isn't scrutinized here. What is offered provides mild amusement: Jeremy's lionization by frat boys, his beached-whale efforts as a cliché-spouting stand-up, his schlepping around the country in a relentless search for celebrity, using plastic shopping bags as luggage. The dramatic crisis is that he longs to make it in the movies, where, despite numerous (mostly backstage) contributions to Hollywood productions over the years, he just can't. And I know a comedian who wants to play Hamlet.

Now, despite the fact that Ron Jeremy is incapable of self-censoring, he's not without talent or charm. If he had even the merest whiff of personal refinement, he might have fulfilled his dreams. Instead, he remains a novelty act. Which is one reason frat boys like him. There's another reason, which surfaced during my interview with him, in which Jeremy strenuously recapped the documentary, disregarding the fact that I'd seen it. We were discussing the homophobia of straight boys, which limits the range of eroticism in heterosexual movies. While Jeremy hasn't performed in any bisexual films, that hasn't left him entirely out of the reach of other men.

"When you do a DP [double penetration]," he told me, "your balls are gonna bounce against some other guys' balls. When a girl's giving you double head, the penises bang together. I used to tease this guy named Reuben who was self-conscious about it, and just for that I used to smack him with my dick just for the hell of it, to teach him a lesson."

This remark brought some-



To be rich, famous, and big-dicked in America: porn star Ron Jeremy.

thing else to mind.

"Because I work at Metro Video, which owns a lot of video stores, I saw the survey they did of what men look at when they go into video stores. The number-one renting and selling tapes are heterosexual. But the same customers, at the same store, you know what's the highest renting peepshow, what the most quarters go in for? A, transsexual, and B, gay. Way on the bottom of the list is heterosexual. You know what that means? The average consumer who goes to the video store will bring home a video with a girl in it for his wife or girlfriend to look at. But when he's all by him-

self, taking a lunch break in privacy, he's watching a transsexual or gay film to jerk off to. Isn't that interesting?"

Which tells me that straight men covet our adventures in dickdom. They're tired of pretending, so that they won't seem gay, that they're aren't totally preoccupied with their dicks. And that's why Mr. Jeremy is famous. This schlep with a schlong is Everyman and His Dick, with the unlimited license to use it. No wonder he's fat and happy. ▼

Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy opens Friday.

Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

Known as the quiet one, Harrison's influence on the Beatles was far less public than Lennon's or Paul McCartney's. But he altered the group's music tremendously. Harrison, the guitarist who taught himself on a 12-string at age 10, taught Lennon how to play guitar and was the lead musician of the group. The youngest of the Fab Four, he was also the spiritual one, searching for the meaning of life before it was the stuff of *Oprah*. He led the group to India, transcendental meditation, and a whole new sound to their music.

In an interview the day of Harrison's death, Indian musician Ravi Shankar credited him with bringing Indian music to the West through his relationship with

Shankar, who taught him the sitar, and through Harrison's incorporation of Indian rhythms and sounds into the Beatles' music.

Harrison also pioneered the now-common TV phenomenon, concerts for a cause. His concert to raise money for famine victims in Bangladesh in 1971 raised millions and spawned an invaluable trend.

In a few days there won't be any more TV programs memorializing Harrison, though there are plans to rerun some Beatles movies on various networks. Other news will supersede this small, sad headline. But Harrison's beautiful music, his melodic guitar, and his evanescent talent remain. As do his words.

"With every mistake, we must surely be learning," he sang in "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." If only it were true. ▼

Eleven up



Another heist movie? Director Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven*, opening in wide release Friday, is a remake of the 1960 Rat Pack feature film of the same name. It's got delectable George Clooney in the lead Frank Sinatra role. It's got slurpable Brad Pitt as a card sharp. It's got delicious Matt Damon as a pick-pocket. And it's got desirable Don Cheadle, downloadable Andy Garcia and juicy Julia Roberts in other roles, as a gang of petty criminals attempts to knock over a Vegas casino. Las Vegas! Lost wages!

We won't know until we scope Soderbergh's flick whether Clooney, Pitt *et al.* can do justice to the original Rat Packers: Peter Lawford, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Sinatra. But we do like the look of this flick already: retro, clean-cut, sorta depraved. Other names who are in it should ring the right bells: Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Elliott Gould, Carl Reiner. On Friday we'll see if Soderbergh's golden touch extends to remaking vintage Technicolor entertainment. ▼

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VIDEO

Fiendish fixations

'The Architecture of Doom' out on video

by Gary Morris

The puzzle of Hitler and the Holocaust continues to twist in and out of the popular consciousness like a particularly hardy virus, most recently in the alleged new archival evidence in the new book *Hitler's Secret: The Double Life of a Dictator* (Basic Books), by respected German historian Lothar Machtan, that Hitler was gay. This idea has its attraction as perhaps one component of what happened, with Hitler's pathological genocide of outsiders and marginalized groups possibly the most extreme expression in history of the deep self-loathing that often accompanies life in the closet.

Peter Cohen did not have this material available for his 1989 documentary *The Architecture of Doom*, and it's hard to say whether he would have used it if he had. But Cohen plays a larger and more subtle hand. In this brilliantly written and visualized documentary, now out on DVD and VHS, he uses rare historical footage to show how Hitler and his cronies used art to create an "ideology of beauty" that both demonized an enemy and galvanized the professional classes, along with many rank-and-file Germans, into either actively participating in or tacitly approving of the destruction of millions.

Hitler was an accomplished artist, but also — and crucially, says Cohen — a failed one, rejected from art school, which embittered him and set him on a drastically different path. Further investigation reveals an astonishing prevalence of failed artists, novelists, poets, etc. including Joseph Goebbels, in the middle and upper echelons of the Nazi party.

Hitler understood that in order to win a populace to a cause, there must be a powerful underlying ideology. The usual explanations of Hitler's rise due to economic privation tell only part of the story; the rest of it can be found in his complex creation of an art-based mythology formed to convince Germans that their country was a direct descendant of Imperial Greece and Rome and should thus have monumental, heroic, "wholesome" art to reflect this. A stumbling block to recapturing these glories of the past, according to the Nazi view, were "degenerate groups" — the mentally ill, Jews, gypsies, homosexuals — polluting German bloodlines either through alleged massive procreation (the mentally ill) or "impure" art (Jews).

Full dome

The film dazzlingly shows just how much of the ideology Hitler created derived from, and later depended on, art. He was a long-time connoisseur, making vast numbers of art purchases, at Nazi-organized art shows, and seizures from occupied territories. One of his obsessions, shown in all its excess in the film, was the "clean" art of massive white stone Aryan musculature; wildly oversized statuary; ridiculously large domed buildings (one capable of holding 180,000 people); and kitsch-heroic and pastoral paintings that showed an idealized Germany that awaited them after conquering the world. This avalanche of art and architecture, most of it commissioned personally by



Adolf Hitler loved the 'clean' art of massive sculpted white stone Aryans.

Hitler, was meant to crowd out the "un-art" and "un-culture" of "Bolshevik Jews" (the two were invariably coupled in Hitler's undiscriminating mind) supposedly wreaking havoc on the noble German.

Contrasting this proposed future world of Aryan bliss were cubist and expressionist images of faces and bodies by Picasso, Kokoschka, Emil Nolde, and others, likened to the deformed faces and bodies of mentally ill institutionalized citizens in a chilling Nazi-era slide show. Using such threatening if simple-minded paradigms helped immeasurably in demonizing Jewish (and modern) artists, and thus Jews. More "hygienic" art showing "normal," robust Germans at work and in repose could counter what Hitler and his minions reduced to a kind of noxious bacteria burrowing into the German body: the Jew. Many ambitious doctors joined this effort, with the least ethical, those willing to put the stamp of approval on this idea, elevated to the top ranks. (Nearly half of German doctors were Party members.)

Hitler had other artistic fixations that would serve him in his quest. One was, of course, Wagner, whose work could bring him to tears, and, according to Cohen, offered a "fantastic illusion of flight from reality" that der Fuehrer found both irresistible and inspiring. He was also fueled by a German pulp writer of "cowboys and Indians" novels aimed at boys, which he had cherished as a boy but continued to read into adulthood. The film points out that these novels were written by a man who had never been to America, and links Hitler to him as another man who had no experience of cultures outside his purview.

Germany's future in the Nazi plan (Hitler's plan, really) also depended on cinema. Leni Riefenstahl's documentaries are the best-known films in the Nazi propaganda arsenal, but *The Architecture of Doom* quotes extensively from two others made in 1937 and 1938. These are the notorious *The Eternal Jew*, which used footage of impoverished Polish Jews to show the kind of "corrupt" lifestyle that awaited Germans who dared to dissent; and an equally disturbing documentary

about the threat of vermin — read: Jews — and the need to control such "pests" through virulent poisons. The film documents the fruit of the Nazi effort to transform human beings into vermin that must be purged as an act of self-defense.

Hitler's dream of a "clean and beautiful" Germany devoid of such "vermin" soon collapsed both personally, as he became increasingly insane, and militarily, as Germany began losing ground in its two-front war. The most successful Nazi art shown in the film comes from sketches and paintings sent back from the Russian front, showing scenes of Nazi defeat and despair. But defeat merely spurred Hitler on; in Cohen's eloquent phrase, he "saw doom as art's highest expression," and to the world's lasting detriment became ever more frenzied in his attempt to create the horrifying "high art" of genocide. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Fri



Les Carcans, by Leonor Fini, 1984

Fini — finally

The catalog is dazzling. You expect the big fine-arts museums to issue glorious printed paens to their current exhibitions, but it comes unexpected from a private gallery. Clearly, though, Rowland Weinstein of Weinstein Gallery recognized that he had a winner on his hands with "Leonor Fini and Her Contemporaries: Surrealism through the Eyes of Women Artists," which opens on Thursday, December 6.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1908, Leonor Fini was raised by her Italian mother in Italy, in a highly cultured household consisting of mostly women. Regular houseguests included James Joyce and Rainer Maria Rilke. During her childhood, Fini was exposed to Art Nouveau, Viennese Secessionist, and traditional Baroque aesthetics, among others. Until she reached puberty, Fini was often dressed as a boy by her mother in an effort to disguise her from kidnappers hired by her father to bring her back to Argentina.

Having never attended art schools, Fini learned about anatomy through the examination of corpses in Trieste's morgues. After her first show in Milan at age 17, she moved to France for good and eventually became one of that country's most celebrated female artists.

Her love affairs with many of the most flamboyant men and women of her time are the stuff of artistic legend. She never married. Until her death in 1996, she lived with as many as 30 cats at a time. These, along with sphinx imagery, inspired much of her strongest work. ▼

"Leonor Fini and Her Contemporaries" opens Dec. 6 at Weinstein Gallery, 383 Geary St. Info: 362-8151; www.weinstein.com



Sphinx Squatte, by Leonor Fini, 1975

The Metronome Ballroom

"Holiday Music," the annual holiday dance performance, a student-teacher showcase choreographed by world Exhibition Champion Tom Slater, directed by Julie Lowe (former principal dancer with the Oakland Ballet). Featuring more than 35 dancers performing ballroom dance styles including Tango, Salsa, Cha-Cha, Waltz, Foxtrot and Swing. With professional and amateur routines, group numbers, and celebrity performances. Both evenings include dance lessons in Ballroom, Latin, and Swing from 7:30-9pm. Show starts at 9:30pm and continues afterwards with general dancing till 1am. \$22 adv.; \$25 door (\$20 students/seniors/groups of 10 or more). Also on Sat., Dec. 8. Located at 1830 17th St. Info/tix: 252-9000; metronomeballroom.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Extended run: "Tapestry," the musical hit celebrating the songs of Carole King, stage directed by Earl D. Weaver with Alan Fricke as musical director. Featuring Lara Bruckman, Wade Crosson, Beth Elliott, Jorge Hernandez, Sean Ray and Thana Yacap-Zaragoza. Songs include "I Feel the Earth Move" and "Natural Woman," among many other Carole King/Gerry Goffin classics. \$15-\$25. 8pm Fri. & Sat; 2pm Sun. Through Jan. 6, 2002. Info/tix: 861-8972; ticketweb.com

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute panel: "Living With Hepatitis C: Lesbian Perspectives: For Women," moderated by Damion Kelly, with panelists Tijanna Eaton, Morningstar Vancil, and Mikaya Heart. The focus is on the personal experiences of three lesbians living with Hepatitis C. Followed by Q&A. Free (\$5-\$10 suggested donation).

First Unitarian Church

"5-Minute Dating" — Men Meeting Men, produced by Joel Koosed, an expert in bringing people together since 1975. Meet 50-100 gay and bisexual men and enjoy short, structured, individual conversations with as many of them as you can "date" in one night. Dressy casual attire suggested. \$20 adv.; \$25 day of event. 7-10pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary St.). Info: 435-8655; www.MeetingGame.com/gay

Diego Rivera Theatre, City College

Actress and former Miss America Lee Meriwether appears in "Happy End," a fully staged production of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's 1929 musical, not seen in the Bay Area since the 1970s. Bearing a remarkable similarity to "Guys and Dolls" but written 15 years earlier, "Happy End" tells the tale of a Chicago gangster who falls in love with a Salvation Army lass. Stage direction by David Ostwald; music direction by Michael Shahani. English translation and adaptation by A.C.T.'s Michael Feingold. \$10 (\$5 students). City Col-

lege of SF, Ocean Campus, 50 Phelan Ave. Info/tix: 239-3132, ext. 1.

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Holiday Comedy Festival," hosted by Al Madrigal, featuring Beth Lisick and Tara Jepsen, Kasper Hauser, White Noise Radio Theater, and The Fibbs. \$10-\$15. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Info/tix: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Freight & Salvage, Berkeley

Rebecca Riots (Eve Decker, Andrea Pritchett & Lisa Zeiler) perform three final shows before breaking up. This female rock-trio has been touring the country, promoting their fourth CD, *Gardener*, but have decided lay aside their performing careers to pursue other priorities. \$16.50 at door. 8pm. Also on Dec. 8 at 5pm and 8pm. 1111 Addison Ave., Berkeley. Info: (510) 548-1761.

Sat

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

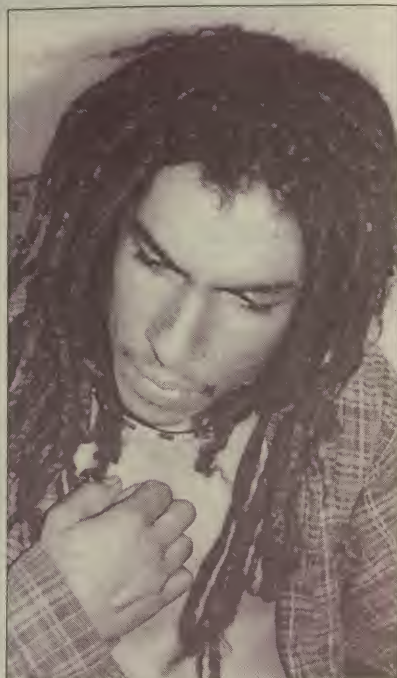
Gala reception and performance: "Dance-Along Nutcracker." Tie on a tutu and take to the dance floor for a holiday delight orchestrated by the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band under the baton of Artistic Director Jantine Louie. Choreographed by Carolyn Carvajal. This year's spirit dance troupe includes Corinne Levy, Juan Corvetto, and Callie Carvajal. Ed Boecke twirls baton. Cameo appearance by rollerskating accordionist Tom Sellars. \$18 for the 2:30pm show (also for the 7:30pm gala reception, featuring pianist Michael Padilla. 701 Mission St. Info/tix: 978-ARTS; www.jonsimsctr.org/sflgfb

848 Community Space

"Hyena comedy Showcase,"



White Noise Radio Theater perform in Footloose's Holiday Comedy Festival, at Venue 9. See Saturday.



Zeke (David Alvarado) in *Resin*, a Vladimir Gyorksi film at Victoria Theatre. See Thursday.

produced by Hank Hyena and Danny Ryan, featuring 11 hysterical humorists, all ex-students of Hank Hyena's "Comic Monologue" class at UC Berkeley Extension (the press release doesn't specify whether they passed or failed). Class motto: "Laff 'till you pee!" \$6. 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. Info: 643-8118.

The Concourse

"KPFA Community Crafts Fair." More than 200 juried craftsmakers and artists: 11:30am-5pm. 1912 Central Ave., Alameda. Tix/info: (510) 239-2239, ext. 2576; www.oebgmc.org; Mama Bear's Bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Ministries of Light

"Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair" featuring many local artists vending jewelry, pottery, collage, spa products and more.

Live music. 11am-5pm. 49 Duboce St. Info: Kate McCarthy, 563-2444.

First Congregational Church, Alameda

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus presents "Peace ... Unwrap the Gift," their second annual holiday concert. Artistic Director Dick Kramer leads the diverse group of 35 men in traditional songs of the season, part of Handel's *Messiah*, 11th century chants, traditional Jewish songs, and a pair of Spanish carols. Plus audience sing-alongs. \$15. 8pm. 1912 Central Ave., Alameda. Tix/info: (510) 239-2239, ext. 2576; www.oebgmc.org; Mama Bear's Bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

University Lutheran Church, Berkeley

Opus Q, The East Bay Men's Chorus, presents "Peace Concert '01: Let Music Live!" Directed by J.R. Foust. Featured will be selections from Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, and Bernstein's *Mass*, plus pieces by G.F. Handel, Holly Near, and Joseph M. Martin. With guest appearances by The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF, harpist Dan Levitan, and flutist Sally Barta. Two Sat. shows: \$13. for 5:37pm show; \$15 for 8:07pm show. Also on Sun., Dec. 9, 7:07pm. 2425 College Ave. (at Haste), Berkeley. Info: (510) 664-0260; www.opus-q.com

Sun

Noe Valley Ministry

Noe Valley Chamber Music Series presents a concert of Christmas music from the Three Americas by San Francisco Choral Artists. Audience members are invited to join the ensemble for Christmas caroling in the neighborhood after the concert. \$12 (\$8 seniors/students; under-12 free). 4pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Tix: 648-5236.

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Oakland

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus presents "Peace ... Unwrap the Gift," their second annual holiday concert. \$15. 7pm. 1330 Lakeshore

Ave., Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 239-2239, ext. 2576; www.oebgmc.org; Mama Bear's Bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Amnesia Bar

"Club K.Y.," an indie/punk/queercore club in the Mission (2nd Sunday of every month). Spike, Mike & Jacob spin the newest, loudest, nastiest US/UK indie, noise-pop and punk on vinyl, CD and mp3. "KY" was started in May 2001 by Spike & Mike, two SF-based queers fed up with the lack of queer clubs for queer punks, rock & indie fags, dykes and gender-benders. Spike came up with the idea after spending years living in London and hanging out at Club V (originally "Vaseline"). Jacob recently joined as the third DJ. The venue is small, friendly and well mixed (mostly LGBTQQ). Beer and wine only served. No cover (donations gladly accepted to help offset the cost of flyering). 10pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. 853 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: www.geocities.com/clubky

Mon 10

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Special event: "A Conversation with Lily Tomlin," moderated by Jewelle Gomez, a benefit for NCTC's YouthAware Educational Theatre Program. Tomlin is currently starring in the revival of *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, written and directed by Jane Wagner, which has been extended through Dec. 31 at SF's Theatre on the Square. Tomlin has starred in motion pictures, television, animation, theater and video. Reception follows program. \$150 (first four rows) and \$100. 7:30pm. Seating limited. Advance tix only: 861-8972; www.ticketweb.com

Green Room

Clavon, under the artistic direction of Kurt Rohde, performs "Beethoven & Webern: The Ultimate Romantics," featuring Ludwig van Beethoven's *String Quartet in E flat Major, Opus 127* and his *Piano Quartet in E flat Major*, as well as Anton Webern's *Six Bagatelles for String Quartet and Pieces for Cello and Piano*. The works represent examples of each composer's early and later periods. Rohde is also artistic director of the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 642-8054.

Paxton Gate

Hidden treasure: "Fairies," works in miniature by gay Mission District-based



Fairies, miniature sculpture by Jorge Natividad, at Paxton Gate. See Monday.

painter/sculptor Jorge Natividad, who crafts exquisite tiny fairies out of dried flowers and other materials. The detail in these pieces is astonishing; their delicacy and beauty elevate them far above the level of craft to high art. Natividad is part of a circle of SF gay artists including painter Tino Rodriguez, who also sculpts miniatures. 1872 Valencia St. Info: 824-1872.

Theatre Rhinoceros

20th Anniversary Event: Robert Coffman reads Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory." Coffman brings his warmth and wit to his special interpretation of Capote's classic story of young Buddy and his special friend's final Christmas together. \$10. 7pm. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix: 861-5079.

Metronome Ballroom

"Gay & Lesbian Salsa Class," level 1, with Sedoris Ferguson. \$14 drop-in. 6-7pm. 1830 17th St. Info: 252-9000

Tue

ODC Theater

ODC Theater and ODC School present "Pilot 36: Interplay," exploring human relationships in many forms. Featuring six choreographers: Private Freeman; Heidi Schweiker; Lara Freidenfelds; Martt Lawrence; Tatjana Loh; and Heather Rafferty. One night only. \$8-\$12 sliding. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org/theater

Koret Auditorium, Main Library,

Feminist philosopher Susan Griffin discusses her latest book "The Book of the Courtesans" (Broadway, 2001). Free. 6:30pm. 100 Larkin St.

SFPALM

Ongoing exhibition: "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: The History of San Francisco's Orpheum Theater," celebrating the current Orpheum Theater's 75th anniversary. The exhibit chronicles the history of all four theatres that have borne the Orpheum name in SF, from its earliest incarnation as an opera house through vaudeville to current-day Broadway attractions. Free. 11am-5pm Tues.-Sat. (till 7pm Wed.). Thru March 2002. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), Veterans Bldg., 4th Floor. Info: 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

Wed 12

George Coates

Performance Works "The Crazy Wisdom Show," created and directed by George Coates, a new play with music. The "crazy wisdom" inspired performances of the Nigerian actor and musician Babatunde Garaya and comedienne/singer Sara Moore use trickster myth, ancient Zen teachings, and a humorous perspective to examine recreational panic, complacency, and other twisted aspects of human behavior. The production features characters who to some might appear to be clowns or fools, but to others seem to possess great wisdom. Music direction by Sue Bohlin. \$18-\$28. 8pm. Thru Dec. 31. Tix/info: City Box Office, 392-4400; www.georgecoatesperformanceworks.org

Thu 13

Exit Stage Left

"Nine One One," a response to the September 11 terrorist attack, co-presented by Crowded Fire, Unconditional Theatre, Rebecca Salzer Dance Theater, Forced Perspective, The She, Poor Monk Productions, and The Exit Theatre. More than 30 writers, directors, choreographers, dancers, actors and visual artists offer perspectives on the current terrorist crisis. Free admission (donations accepted on behalf of local charities). 8pm. Also Dec. 14 & 15. 156 Eddy St. (btwn Mason & Taylor). Tix/info: 437-5527.

Mountain View Center for Performing Arts

"Making Spirits Bright," an evening of holiday music with the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus and the Rainbow Women's Chorus. 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Also on Fri., Dec. 14. Tix/info: (650) 903-6000; svgmc.org

UCSF

"Queer Blues," a presentation by Kimeron Hardin, PhD, co-author of *Queer Blues: The Lesbian & Gay Guide to Overcoming Depression*, and Ellen Haller, MD, an expert on women and depression. Free. Noon-1pm. Health Sciences West 301, UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave. Info: UCSF LGBT Resources, 502-5593.

Victoria Theatre

Benefit screening: "Resin," Vladimir Gyorski's verite-style drama, a despairing look at the war on drugs and the Three Strikes law. It tells of a small-time drug dealer, skateboarder, gypsy vagabond and pot-smoking beach bum victimized by the California law. \$10. 7 & 9:30pm. 2961 16th St. Tix/info: (323) 464-1271; www.resin-themovie.com

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The Orpheum Theatre is profiled at SFPALM. See Tuesday.

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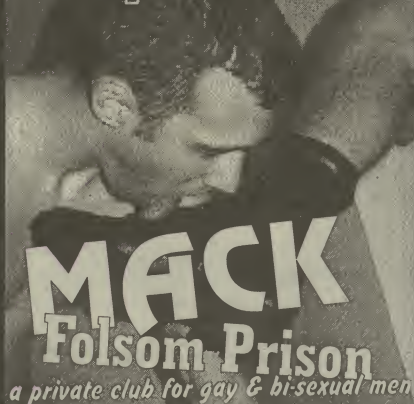
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Looking forward to '02

Mark calendars for Jan. 18 - 21 in DC

by Mister Marcus

While the calendar says the "official" start of winter is on December 21, judging from the weather we've been having in San Francisco the past week, winter is already here. Indeed the holiday season is upon us, with leather parties galore celebrating the season and the forthcoming New Year. That means yet another 365 days for leather people to travel, mingle, run for titles, volunteer to help raise funds and maintain their image of leather pride, no matter what form it takes.

More leather contests are on the way, with most geared toward sending a representative to the next level of competition in a field brimming with new faces, new talent and enthusiasm. Many of the contenders already have great records of service in their own communities through volunteerism and fundraising. Some sash wearers will go on to compete at IML, IMs.L., and ABW, as well as at the new International Sir and International Boy (aka "SIR," the title replacing the defunct Drummer titles in the U.S.).

In January, the biggest leather event takes place in Washington, D.C., in a club event that has set a standard for others in the leather nation. Entitled "Leather Reunion Holiday," the Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend 2002 goes from January 18-21, 2002. The weekend will see a massive influx of leather people from around the world who will help the Centaur Motorcycle Club usher in the beginning of another year of fun, competitions, fame, glory and pride.

Michael Marino, that feisty New Yorker, triumphed in D.C. last year, and has done a remarkable job with his title. He pulled off two big fundraisers at the Lure in his New York bailiwick, and several appearances around the country. His chief aim has been to inspire



The Marino Boys: Mike (left) and John. Mike is the current Mid-Atlantic Leather Man, and John was a runner-up in the competition in January 2001. Mike Marino passes his sash at the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend, January 18-20 in Washington, DC.

younger men and prove that the leather tribe is all-inclusive of youth, persons of color and others in the leather/bdsm/kink arena. Michael also managed to get himself "involved" with a West Coast title holder, and has promised me the "pick of the litter." His outgoing personality, friendliness, good looks and drive for perfection have endeared him to leather people all over the country.

With the contest eagerly anticipated by leather people across the nation, the Washington Plaza host hotel has been sold out for almost a year now. Still, several other

nearby hotels offer rooms at comparable rates available. You can check them out by clicking on: www.leatherweekend.com, including weekend package orders and other useful information. MAL is one of the best leather weekends on the schedule. I hope you can make it!

Meanwhile...

In San Francisco, despite the inclement weather on Saturday night, December 1, the Golden Gate Guards MC anniversary party saw a good turnout in the spiffy, newly-renovated Most Holy Redeemer church social space.

Dennis Tyler (of course) served a full course dinner, and

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, December 6

Final Big Basket contest & beer bust at the Edge Bar, with Danny Williams doing MC honors.

Friday, December 7

"Boot Hardon Night" at the Loading Dock, sponsored by Stompers, with Driller doing complimentary shines, and lust for boot lovers seething all over the place. Drink specials from 2200 to 2300.

Saturday, December 8

Alameda County Leather Corps "Santa's Slave Auction" annual benefit for "slaves" to perform "services" for successful bidders. At the Turf Club from 1800-2200, Lenny Broberg mc'ing and Jeff Tucker the auctioneer (shouldn't that be reversed?).

Cigar, dungeon and wrestling party — last one of the year — at Castlebar — you know where that is! For details call (415) 970-9700.

"Eruption Party," the infamous annual Xmas party by Don "Ho" Tse and Omar Moseley, at their digs on Sanchez Street. They ask a \$20 donation to benefit AEF and Positive Resources Center. RSVP: 558-4610.

In New York City, Vern Stewart hosts the first Mr. NY Eagle Leather contest in their new location. Distinguished panel of judges and an entry for IML 2002 when it's all over. Good to see New York back in action!

Sunday, December 9

It's the Annual Holiday Leather Brunch, from 1100-1400. This year it's at Harvey's SoMa at 12TH & Folsom, with entertainment and lots of great raffle prizes. You should not miss this one!

Mon.-Tue. December 10-11

Leather empress and cabaret diva Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" light up the Plush Room of the Hotel York (on Sutter St.).

Tuesday, December 11

Bondage Buddies night at 933 Harrison with doors open from 2100-2300. Dress code, I suspect. Call 977-HEAD.

If you're in the Los Angeles Area, attend the first L.A. Boys of Leather meeting at the Gauntlet II, beginning at 1900. For info: SoCaDrmmr-Boy2001@aol.com.

Wednesday, December 12

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2000-2300 only. Get drenched! For info, 777-HEAD or click on www.blowbuddies@aol.com.

Sunday, December 16

Mr. Cheeks & Chaps Jeff Johnston hosts a beer/soda benefit at Daddy's today from 1700-2000. Your \$7 donation benefits the SF Gay Men's Chorus, and gets you entertainment by them and scads of fun.

PORN

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Pop shots and other extras on DVD

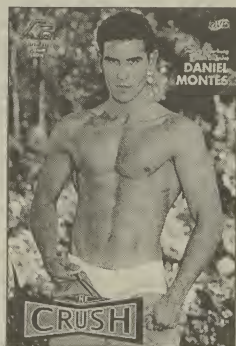
by John F. Karr

There's just one thing that irks me about porn DVDs. The chaptering always seems as if it had been done by those people who translate Japanese instruction manuals into English: it's close, but screwy. It should be character introduction (narrative scene), characters begin making out, characters suck and/or fuck. Seems simple, no? But it rarely works that way. And given the cost of DVDs, there's no excuse for the producers not to include a title card in the box tray, just like Hollywood movies, listing the chapters. Who wants to keep accessing the Menu to find scenes when the mind is clouded and at least one hand is greasy?

That said, let's get to a couple of swell new DVDs, each with its own porn-version variety of the Extra Features so commonplace with Hollywood product. All DVDs from Channel 1 Releasing have "PopShot-On-Demand," a nifty feature that's exactly

what it sounds like, as well as good photo galleries. This can seem superfluous, when you can freeze frame perfectly anywhere on DVD, but not when they're the generous galleries of Falcon DVDs, with the great photography of David Lam. And some DVDs even have audio commentary. "Oh, no!" gasped a friend of mine. "Is there anything more comic than a porn movie with a commentary track?"

The idea may be funny, but I enjoyed the tracks nonetheless. For their series of back catalogue re-issues, Falcon occasionally creates a special "Platinum Edition," which has a commentary track (available by mail order only). When the commentary accompanies a classic little feature like *The Crush*, it's swell — although frequently a little strange to listen to as the movie plays, silently, as background. During the bewilderingly beautiful opening scene of *Crush*, for example, the commentators are comparing recipes for exotic cocktails they've drunk. I don't ever want to watch such gorgeous sex while two queers chatter away gaily. Reminds me of the friend who met me in the steamroom at the baths and launched into a critique of that



evening's performance at the opera. Girlfriend!

Still, *The Crush* commentary, conducted by videographer Max Phillips with stars Colby Taylor and Travis Wade, does get to good stuff — especially during the stars' final scene together, when the talk is as heated as the visual. Most of the conversation is of an interview nature,

"How did you get started in porn?" and, believe it or not, like they'd just been through Lee Strasburg's training. "How do you get into character?" Thankfully, there's a little talk about how porn actually gets made, and these details are fascinating. But most of it is fun personal stuff about the stars. Wade is especially entertaining, with his easy sex talk and jocular revelations ("I just hope my baby face lasts," he gushes.)

The Crush is bookended by two sensational scenes. The opener features a dashing Spaniard and his Nordic conquest in a sensuously filmed moonlit tryst. Dark Daniel Montes (seen on the box cover) and blond Christian Taylor, each individually striking, deliver a scene I've left on replay mode for a couple of weeks now: physical beauty, striking cocks, and a sumptuous sexual fervor. At the other end of the movie comes the romantic and forceful coupling of stars Colby Taylor and Travis Wade, an exciting and lavishly detailed flip-flop. In between there's a juicy threeway in which scrumptious Cameron Fox gets his first bottoming, followed by a dirty divertissement with Marcus Iron and Drew Damon — even more fucking that'll make you en-

vious: "It shoulda been me!"

Star chat

Over at Channel 1 Releasing, accompanying Lance Gear's first starring vehicle, *In Gear*, director Chi Chi LaRue gets around the inadvertent comedy of commentary tracks by offering a separately filmed interview with Gear, who is joined by Logan Reed and Jackson Price. So you're watching the stars as they talk, not the movie. It's only 10 minutes long, as opposed to the feature-length Falcon commentary, but I liked seeing the guys out of performance mode. It's like sitting around and talking with them yourself.



And the movie is a good one for Chi Chi. There's nothing to distract her from her preferred brand of over-the-top sexual histrionics. There's no plot, only one set, and a cast of sex pigs who are heavyhitters every step of the way.

In Gear takes place in one of those mechanic's garages where customers get their own pistons lubed before their cars. Lance reveals his jaunty personality in the (very brief) dialogue introductions, and is a participant, if not the star, of all five scenes in the movie. "He's a wolf dressed in sheep's clothing," quips co-star Price of Gear, who flip-flops with Reed, and bottoms for rough guys Michael Brandon and Chad Hunt, as well as several others, in a movie with lotsa cockrings, whopper cocks, dirty attitudes and sloppy hole-slammin'. The stars admit to having had a blast during the filming, and it shows. ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

in-club awards were presented.

The new list of officers was not new at all — except for Yvonne Driver, who was elected Recording Secretary. A very convivial evening was had with lots of bike club people present and their supporters and admirers.

On Sunday, the Forum of SF hosted their annual Xmas Party at Harvey's-SoMa. It was a mob scene with lots of leather, club regalia, Santa Hats, glitter, glitz, and the loud mouth of Pushy Phyllis dominating the scene.

A great buffet was served, and the SF Forum Calendar of events for 2002 was distributed. If you weren't there, you missed a hell of a party! ▼



Thanksgiving in Toronto yielded a new Mr. Toronto Leather man, and here he is (right): Bill Dearsley, with Mr. Fellowship Leather David Forget. Mr. Dearsley advances to compete at IML in May 2002.

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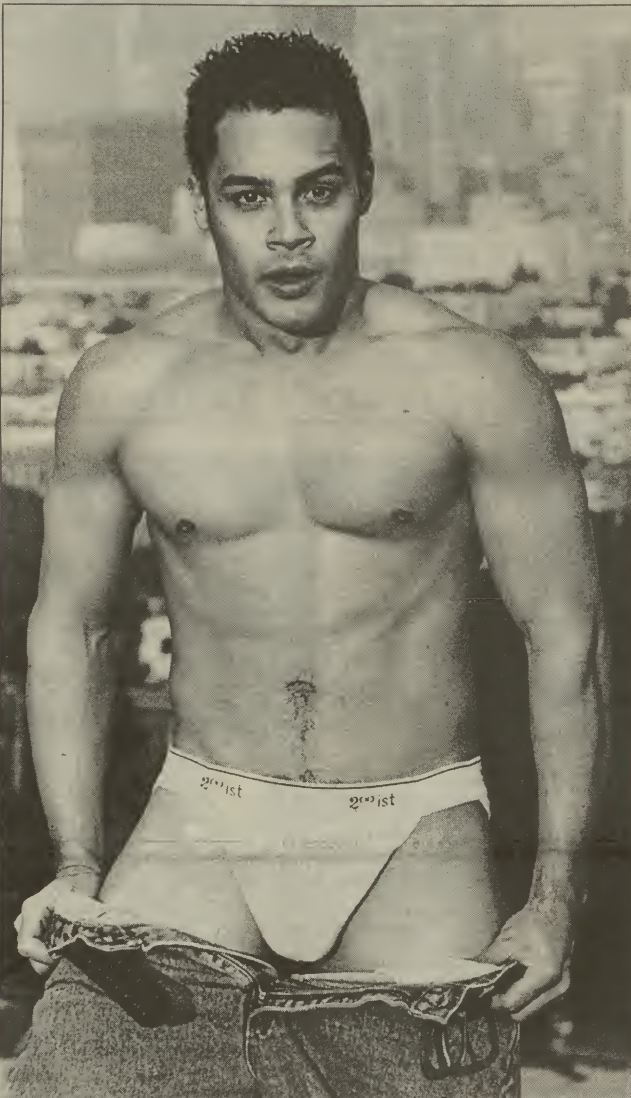
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Sports Baseball, Sun 11/11/01
 You: Black running tights, very hot man. Partner in shorts buying shoes, yum could eat you both up. Let's meet. ☎ 71182

Walter Calart, Oak
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Beautiful Boy On Bike
 Monday eve Nov. 5, Mission by Duboce. Me driving gold truck, dark hair, goatee, turned at Duboce. Lost you. Love to take you out. ☎ 71184

Fri 9 Nov 10:45am L Train
 You: drk bld cutie, on at Church St-st across from. Me: muscular Blk guy, with Macy's bag & back pack. Want to look into your eyes. Call me. ☎ 71185

I Could Go On Singing
 You- looking at Judy Record in Castro, cute and brave. Me- at payphone, on bike. Me smiled and talked briefly. Are you that Steve? ☎ 71208

Midnight Sun, Sun 11/11 @ 7hr.
 You: Gray hair, jeans, untucked green shirt, positive interaction with friends, seemingly shy. Me: kakis, blue shirt, standing under TV, not good at bar talk. Disappointed that I didn't communicate. ☎ 71209

Trapeze Boy W/ Toe Polish
 Wed. before Thanksgiving- Steamworks. You live- Walnut Creek/ work- San Ramon. Enjoyed our wrestle. Want to tussle again. You referred to me as "you people". Give a call. ☎ 71230

Flower Market Monday 11/19 9am
 I drove up in a white convertible. You were standing there. Beautiful smile, blond, a hoop in each ear. Our eyes met. You waved goodbye. Clearly, we need to connect. ☎ 71231

Walking On Hyde Street
 Enjoyed our conversation. Me: coming from B. Peters Concert. You: coming home from work. Please call. ☎ 71232

Castro @ 15th 11/24 Woof!
 You stopped for me twice. I should have said hi; bit shy. You thick goatee, cap, jeans. Me start looking for parking. Met again on Castro across from theatre. ☎ 71233

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+GBM Top Seeks HIV+ GWM
 39 6ft 160 GBM top seeks small build, smooth submissive GWM under 40. A+ for boys with tight butts, & good cocksuckers. ☎ 71159

Oral Expert
 Attractive Black male 5'9", 158 48, HIV- shaved head seek White male 50 to 65 well endowed for hours of fun. ☎ 71160

"Football- Built"
 Blk, 50, 5'10", 220, chest 50", aggressive, strong, loving, kissable, suckable, safe, long hair, strong legs, swollen nipples, strong buns, 10" & 7 1/2" round, serious no fats or fems. ☎ 71188

Poz Loner Seeks Same
 Dark, smooth, muscular, masculine Blackguy; bookish techie, quiet, doesn't socialize. 5'10", 180, 44, 31" waist, 44" chest, nice body. In bed: non-verbal, affectionate. Seeking muscular, masculine cohort. ☎ 71161

Let's Set The Nights To Music
 GWM ISO good looking masculine men for friendship, sex, possibly more. I like the outdoors-quiet romantic nights at home, loving one another and building a life together. Let's make it happen. ☎ 71162

GWM Seeks GLM Or GBM Top
 Easy going bottom 45, 5'10", HIV- seeks easy going top. 35-55. Me blond/gray hair, big blue eyes little chunky- not a lot. Good guy. Pis call. ☎ 71170

~GBM Looking For Love~
 Black male looking for other males to date. Me: 38 look 20 something, HIV-. You: be 25-55 and HIV- and looking for relationship. Please call, thanks. ☎ 71172

•GWM 28•
 Stocky gym build, trim waist, looking for a similar man to date. Monogamously, I prefer, dark skin and thick thighs. ☎ 71173

35 GAM Seeking GWM
 Professional 5'7", 150, seeking sincere GWM under 42 like traveling, eating out, movies, reading. ☎ 71174

Handsome Healthy Sexy Normal
 Guy, 39 looking to settle down in caring Ltr. Me: 6', 190lbs, moustache, fun genuine, kinda furry, in-shape. Prefer beefy, cuddly, facial hair, sweet and caring guy to play house with. ☎ 71187

Young Cute Russian
 Is looking for another cultured intelligent Russian, European or American for serious relationship. Must be sexy and under 40 y.o. ☎ 71210

Truly Sweet Guy Wanted(!) By X-mas
 U.B. W/LA into nature, plants, travel, general health, reasonably fit, attractive & stylish. Me: Asian-Latin, 5'9", 150, brwn, no stereotypes, only long term relations. ☎ 71211

Looking For Men With Brown Eyes
 Olive skin for buffed 37 year blond hair, blu man, with big muscular arms and a nice round ass. Versatile, HIV+, smooth, great legs. ☎ 71212

Win This Prize
 Goodlooking WM, 6'2", physically & mentally fit, late thirties, brown hair, blue/green eyes, athletic, unpretentious academic, warm, interested in meeting a sincere guy 25-45. Let's talk. ☎ 71213

Affectionate Guy Seeks Same
 Warmly masculine, working-class, attractive 48y.o. GWM, fit at 6'3" & 175lbs, seeks physical/emotional connection with clean-living, sensual, masculine G/bt WM. ☎ 71214

Monogamous Muscular Man
 Seeks same 40-55, HIV-neg., with sensitive nips for dating (TV, movies, dining) & titplay in S.F. I'm Asian, 5'7", 150#, 40c, 30w, HIV-neg. NS, no anal. ☎ 71215

Ideal Husband
 GWM, 52, 6ft., 200 lbs., passionate, healthy, responsible professional. Interests: cats, music, word, dance. You: HIV- thin, romantic non-smoker. ☎ 71216

WLM 45, 6', 165lbs. ISO Older M
 55+ who enjoys affection, kissing & oral pleasure. Regular cigar or pipe smoker, non-gym, facial hair a plus. No gay lifestyle, drugs, attitude. ☎ 71234

Small Penis Seeks Same
 Under 6" a/w smooth clean shaven for w/b: curious goodlooking new to S.F. for steady oral relationship, maybe poke my bottom? ☎ 71235

Poz GBM ISO GWM Top
 6ft, 170, 40 poz GBM top to service. Prefer slim under 45. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 71186

Hairy-Chested Construction Worker
 Looking to fill you up- ISO masculine men. ☎ 71171

Navy Vet- 6'2" 225#
 Studied educated, successful Sonoma Rancher. GWM buzzed flat top healthy 55yrs. Seeks younger man for mentoring platonic companionship- more if interested hopefully enjoy reading, writing, thinking, conversation, travel, city country. ☎ 71236

SEEKING ADVENTURE

In Search Of White Man
 I am a Latin male searching for you. Do not have to be hung. I am looking for man 24yrs old. I need a small penis 5" to 6". ☎ 71175

Just Shut Up And Ride
 WM 36 5'10", 200lbs blond/blue cleancut muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to screw. Call anytime. ☎ 71189

"Small -Penises"
 Don't care about size. I love asses and nipples on a male. Let me love you for just that time we are together. No fats or fems. ☎ 71191

Weightlifting Nude
 Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Come over, workout, or watch me workout. Am 48, 5'10", 190. ☎ 71192

Need To Jack-Off?
 Are you into kissing, tit play and long J/O? Let's do it together. I'm 58, tall, slim, positive, mix-breed, uncult and ready to pull it. ☎ 71193

I need Condom Practice...
 Previously had trouble keeping one on my 8 inch. Seeking a mature, conservative appearing bottom; moustache a plus. I'm mature, hung, Black. Fast but intense scene. ☎ 71194

Gay Artists: I'm Looking For
 Gay Artist to get together to discuss art as well as other things. Also for fun and good times. Call me. ☎ 71195

Are U Craving For A Fantasy?
 Steaming hot pleasures only for you. Am into anything that makes us happy, satisfied. Am HIV(-), 30's stocky Pacific Islander willing to fulfill your dreams. Let's make it come true. ☎ 71196

"Bottoms"
 Nice round butts with a muscle build body. Big quarter size nipples to suck on aggressively. Love to dominate your ass and nipples. 18-30 no fats or fems. ☎ 71197

Senior GWM Seeks Mature GBM
 GWM in SF, 65, 5'9", 155#, HIV- N/D beard affectionate- safe sex, massage, j/o. ISO mature masculine Black man over 45. Smooth, shaved head, cut A+. ☎ 71198

Hung Guys Needed! I'm Looking
 For guys who are hung "9" inches or more, to get together to hang out, party, or to have real good times. ☎ 71199

Naked In The Shower
 Lean masculine guy hoping to find a similar guy who would enjoy some good cleanfun with a bar of soap and warm water. I'm 43 and prefer you be younger or about same age. ☎ 71200

Italian Guys Wanted! I'm Looking
 For Italian guys who are hung or good looking or just like the guys who want to have fun. ☎ 71202

Mulatto Guy Sexy Light-Skinned
 Educated, intelligent, attractive, creative. Seeks financially secure guys or just regular guys for fun. ☎ 71203

Tantric JO
 JO adventurer seeks same to wallow shamelessly in intense male energy, prolonged edging, egoless ecstasy, and mindblowing orgasms. Physical contact unnecessary. Any age, toys, etc. ok. ☎ 71217

Dad ISO Bear/Cub
 GWM in S.F. 66, 5'9", 155# HIV- white beard active healthy N/D, N/S seeks clean masc guy over 40 with beard/stache who enjoys being kissed massaged stroked J/O. ☎ 71218

European Boy For Training
 Looking for any training from a young dominant master in his 20's or 30's. You won't be disappointed. Full submissive guaranteed. ☎ 71219

Do Rank Pits/Jockstraps
 Give you a boner? Me too. Major jock/pit guy seeks buds 4 sniff/buck fun. I'm 5'9", 150, hry, buzzed, tats, beard ripe ready. 40+ A+ yg, butch, gimme a call! ☎ 71220

The Sexiest Guy In Town
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Pro Cocksucker And HIV- Bottom
You're not alone big stock or lean guys. Am here to give hot, steamy gyrating movements on all my orifices. Name it, I'll do it. Am Asian, 30's and hot. ☎ 71221

VGL Hung BM Seeks Affluent Male
Vgl, 31 yr old BM, physique model, 5'11", cleancut, smooth muscular 195lbs, hung 9 1/2", college educated fun loving, seeks generous, affluent male any age/weight for friendship/fun. ☎ 71222

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8" 160, good looking, athletic, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage. Gags, toys, light S/M. Discreet, trustworthy. SF or East Bay. ☎ 71223

Mutual Oral
W male 55yrs, slim, hairy, hung, uc, HIV- seeks W male 50 to 60yrs slim, hairless, HIV- for mutual oral play ++ low hangers. ☎ 71224

GBM ISO White Cocksucker
170lb 6ft 39 po2 GBM seeks smooth slim GWM submissive bottom. A+ for cute nerdy small build boys. ☎ 71225

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells, strip down, workout, or watch me workout. 48, 5'9", 190. ☎ 71226

Hungry Bear Manpussy
GWM, 43, 220lbs. Love to get fucked, and suck on meat. Ethnic a plus! West Sonoma County location. ☎ 71237

ISO Stocky Bottom Bear
To suck my 7"x6" cut cock and balls, eat my clean asshole. Me 5'9", 155#, 60's gray/grn daddy type nice guy. My place, days only, herb, aroma ok, hairy+++. ☎ 71238

Vers. Fisting Top Kinky
Fisting fucking vers, top hankies yellow, red, blue. Bk male 40, 5'8", 185 into pumps, videos fisting and other kinks. Yopur place anytime. ☎ 71239

Into Latex Sex
Latex sex is hot sex is safe sex! Always wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Play safe! ☎ SAFE

Experience My Juicy Talent
Trim WM 50 gl short beard friendly, has hot mouth for horny Black boy 25+. UB clean, considerate, ready to unload, facefucker A+. Eye contact, verbal, A+. Repeats welcome. ☎ 71241

Seeking Asian Warmth
Attractive, gym-toned athletic, professional top to versatile. 47, 6ft, HIV+ healthy-looking GWM seeks cuddly, smart romantic guy for intimacy, good conversation & maybe more. ☎ 71245

Ride My Bushy Mustache
Hot 42 6', 170# brn/blu seeks hot trim butts to slide down my long tongue. George. ☎ 71242

Space Monkey
Remember Space Monkey in "Fight Club"? Buzzcut, hairy, tough, muscled little fucker? This 5'8", 140# hairy muscled skinhead wants his space monkey buddy to workout, wrestle, party, fuck with. ☎ 71243

X-Navy 37 GWM Hot Top Man
Fiery muscle top looking for new recruits for buttcamp. Me: 5'9", 185, smooth and built. ☎ 71240

My Big Dick-- Your Hot Ass
Plowman 6'4" 190lbs 9" cock will stretch your butthole for prolonged mutual enjoyment. Minorities welcome. Cocksuckers and rimmers ok. ☎ 71244

LESBIAN

Euro GWM For "Life" Marriage
I sign prenuptials, I don't want your money. If you'd like, I'm ok with donating my sperm to start family. 30 yrs old. Nice guy here. ☎ 71204

FETISHES

Pre-Cum Fetish Fantasy
Masc, in-shape, friendly, WM, 50, 5'9", 160, shaved head, goatee/stache, oral ISO masc, in-shape oral top WM 35+ hardwood, moderate pre-cum to regularly service. Your SF place. ☎ 71176

Rimming Coach Needed
Novice but eager to learn rimmer needs experienced rim master, expert in the divine art of rimming to teach him the subtleties and advances of giving a superb rim job. ☎ 71177

Pretty Boys Three some...
Me: bi-male 53, ISO bi-pretty-boys for sexual threesome: Pluses: red-heads, cigar-smokers, 18-30 only, 69, Greek-French, clean sober. ☎ 71179

Horny Senior Cum J/O On My Face
Masculine WM wants to watch you J/O up close: See, feel your hot cum splatter my face. ☎ 71205

Muscle ISO Fat
I'm a GWM 50, 6'2", 195 N/S. Looking for a fat GWM/GHM for mutual body worship and safe play. Gainers A+. Open to dating or LTR. ☎ 71206

Quiet, Intellectual Man Wanted
... to suck my cock. I am older, straight dominant man in SF. Verbal, critical. You are eager to please. ☎ 71207

European Slave-Boy For Training
Young and cute boy wants to be slave or dog trained by demanding master in his 20's or 30's. Complete submission guaranteed. ☎ 71227

FF Top
GWM 58 6'5", 250# HIV- top nice big hands wants GWM 30+ bottom HIV- for fun times. Herb aroma++. Call me. ☎ 71228

At Your Place
Smooth slender Asian cross-dresser, love to suck cocks. You: Caucasian, fit, watery mouth, good rimmer, healthy, uniforms, possible relationship. No flakes, no games. Just enjoy yourself. ☎ 71178

Cigar Pig
GWM 45 5'9", 175 shaved head. Nasty leather pig with cigar fetish. Ub for cigar smoking leather for nasty smoking sex. ☎ 71229

Seeking Nipple Wkout Buddy
GWM, 47, stocky 200# "nip"-pig bottom bear, brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercings, smoker, huge erect "nips"! ISO dominant, musc, daddy bear, nip pig for heavy tit wkout sessions with growth in mind, smoker A+++. Please call. ☎ 71180

CBT Handball Tapping Pulling
Toe to toe sensual to serious play, weights, one on one or group. GWM, 40y.o. in shape, goodlooking w/hairy chest seeks same. ☎ 71246

Luv Toys Play... So Do I!!!!!!
Mutual gratification thru safe play: Bi-male late 40's, clean, s/d/free, seeking male or female for erotic sessions. No sex, limits respected. ☎ 71247

Partnered Chastity Eroticism
Mutual/reciprocal sensual arousal and orgasm denial. Many options negotiable. Fit experienced devotee seeks same. Oakland pro 55 bald beard solid 5'8" 165#. ☎ 71248

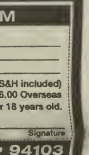
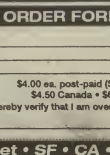
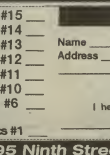
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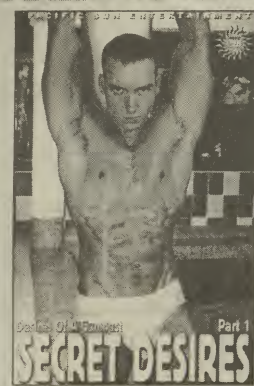
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Taking wing

Chatting with soul star Nikka Costa

by Gregg Shapiro

Like a Feather," the catchy and funky opening track from Nikka Costa's album *Everybody Got Their Something* (Cheeba Sound/Virgin), took off this past summer, heating up the year in pop music. Costa, who wrote or co-wrote all of the album's full-length tracks, has an innate feel for funky soul, and she shows off her stuff on the title track, "Hope It Felt Good" and "Some Kind of Beautiful." What she does to a ballad (such as the Fiona Apple-esque "Just Because" and "Corners of my Mind") deserves to be heard by the multitudes. The daughter of the late Don Costa, a legendary record producer and musician, Nikka Costa has left the nest and taken flight, soaring to great heights.

Gregg Shapiro: There are a wonderful variety of musical styles on *Everybody Got Their Something*. Was that a conscious decision?

Nikka Costa: To an extent. It wasn't like, "I'm going to make a

record that has a million different styles on it." It definitely was a conscious decision not to feel like I have to pick one. I'm just going to do songs that I like. If it's rock, it's rock. If it's funk, it's funk. If it's slow and guitar or whatever, I'm not going to stop myself from creating something just because it doesn't fit into a format. I wasn't really thinking in those terms.

You were a featured performer at the 2001 Sundance Festival. What was that like?

It was cool. It was one of our very first gigs ever. It was great being up in the snow. I thought it was going to be a lot more like how you see it on TV, with stars walking around in ski suits, but it wasn't really like that. It was kind of mellow and chilly. We did our gig, and then we were out of there.

Your song "Push & Pull" was on the soundtrack to the movie *Blow*. Do you have plans to do more soundtrack work?

I did a cover of [the Blondie song] "Call Me" for the *Zoolander*

soundtrack. I'm also thinking about doing a song for the new Sean Penn movie. I love doing soundtracks.

Every year, it seems that more and more children of musical parents are releasing albums. Rufus Wainwright released his second album this year, Blu Cantrell put out her debut disc, and Louise Goffin has an album forthcoming.

It's great. It makes sense that the baby boom of our parents' time spawned all of us, that we're all around the same age and getting ready to embark on our careers. I'm a huge fan of Rufus Wainwright's. I think his record is amazing. I actually met him. I called him the other day and told him how much I loved it.

You've been touring in support of *Everybody Got Their Something*. What kind of band do you bring with you on tour?

I have a nine-piece band. We have horns and a DJ and singers, and all kinds of stuff going on.



Costa: 'It makes sense our parents' Baby Boom spawned all of us.'

You'll be touring through December 22. Does that mean that you'll be going home for Christmas?

I'm going to go to Australia for Christmas. I like the whole fire-

place and having-family-getting-together thing. I'm totally into that. I love how the outdoors smells, like cinnamon and cloves. I like that whole Christmas shopping thing. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

Chanteuse **Connie Champagne** as **Judy Garland** is a highlight of the SF-bred *Christmas with the Crawfords* now running at the Chelsea Playhouse in NYC through January 6, and Connie



Connie Champagne as Judy

herself reports that no less a figure of musical-theatre royalty than **Mr. Stephen Sondheim** was in the audience last week — with an eye to casting Champagne in his next project?

RIP **George Harrison**, who brought us his weeping guitar, India, **Ravi Shankar**, TM, and Bangladesh. Whoever thought that all these years later we would still be asking, why couldn't it have been **Ringo** instead?

Facing the past

Anyone who is fascinated by vintage photos and found archival materials will well enjoy *Face(t)s of Memory: Found Photographs and Family Albums*, at The Jewish Museum San Francisco, 121 Steuart St., through January 31.

The exhibit, which features contemporary work from international artists **Christian Boltanski** and **Marcelo Brodsky**, also displays photographs

from the collection of the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, being something of a preview of the upcoming 2002 merger uniting the two museums to become The Magnes Museum.

Director of Exhibitions **Peter L. Stein**, writer and director of the 1997 documentary *The Castro*, gave us the pleasure of a walk through the show. Boltanski contributes a moving series of photographs, *Gymnasium Chases* (1991). Twenty-four photograph prints, done here in SF at Crown Point Press, "blow up" faces from the group portrait of a Viennese Jewish high-school graduating class in 1931. Given what we know of subsequent history, the fate of most of these smiling faces was probably grim, but Boltanski deliberately leaves the question open, and the faces become masks or ciphers.

Brodsky's *Buena Memoria* (1996) takes similar source material — in this case, a school portrait from the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires in 1967 — and does the opposite, annotates the faces in the crowd to give them history and identity. The artist's intent is to honor the memory of the **Disappeared**, an unknowable number of students, intellectuals and leftists who were the victim of Argentina's right-wing military dictatorship. They include his own brother, part of the group here.

The snapshots, keepsakes and group portraits from the Magnes Collection are the real gems of the exhibition. They include photos of Jews in Burma, in Nome, Alaska, and camped in Golden Gate Park after the '06 SF earthquake. There are snaps of composer **Ernest Bloch**, who evidently was an ardent photographer as well.

We won't soon forget this group shot of the *Young Men's Hebrew Association, February 26, 1902* [Gymnastics Group] (Blauert and Widder, photographers.) Nor a similarly beefcakey snap of *Firefighters, Svislotch, Grodny County, Poland*. As in many of these found treasures, the eye at work might remain anonymous, but the subjects themselves are golden. ▼

Young Men's Hebrew Association, gymnastics group, 1902, part of the Jewish Museum's *Face(t)s of Memory*

Elizabeth Taylor

◀ page 36

ing Liz as Zee in psychedelic mumuus and headbands in Swinging '70s London.

Hag revelations

My personal favorite terrible Liz film is *Ash Wednesday* (1973). Larry Peerce, who also directed *Goodbye Columbus* and *A Separate Peace*, put Liz through the paces as Barbara Sawyer, a Grosse Pointe matron who goes off to a plastic surgery clinic in the Italian Alps in search of her lost youth and an attempt to recapture the lapsed love of her husband, Henry Fonda. It all plays out accompanied by a romantic soundtrack by Maurice ("Lara's Theme") Jarre. Liz gets a star entrance after spending the first 10 minutes shot from behind, and then, gasp! The 41-year-old beauty spins around, and she's covered with rubber ce-

ment and gray hairs which make her look 20 years older than she really is!

More gasping will have to wait until the film takes us into surgery, where a body double is sliced and scraped into a stupor while the audience cringes at receiving too much medical information. An endless wait later, all those nasty bandages come off, and *voilà!* There's Our Liz, age 41, looking, well, fabulous! It's an audacious concept, and after a ski-resort fling with Helmut Berger of all people (he was the boyfriend of Italian director Luchino Visconti), Liz discovers that beauty is only skin-deep or something, and Old Hank still doesn't want her, even though she looks better than anybody else in Grosse Pointe. Worth the price of admission is the photo-montage over the opening credits, wherein somebody had a great time cutting and pasting fan-magazine photos of Taylor and Fonda together so that they

would appear, in their scrapbook, to be approximately the same age. (Fonda was actually 68 when *Ash Wednesday* was filmed.) An Eddie-Fisher-era Liz marries strapping young Hank Fonda. A *Cleopatra*-period Liz goes out to a swanky dinner with a more mature Henry. Lots of fun in the first five minutes!


Thank God that in the 1980s and '90s, Liz turned her talents toward more noble efforts like AmFAR and befriending Michael Jackson. But thanks for the memories, Elizabeth Taylor! ▼

Boom! plays the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room Dec. 7, at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Next Fri., Dec. 14, YBCA presents a double-feature, *Ash Wednesday* at 7:30 p.m. and *X, Y, and Zee* at 9:15 p.m. **Secret Ceremony** screens Fri., Dec. 21, at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Call 978-2700.

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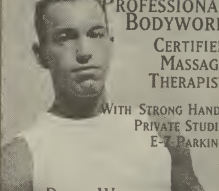
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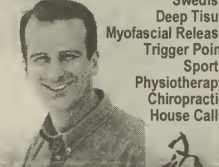
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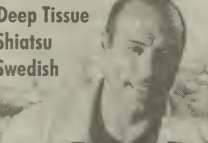


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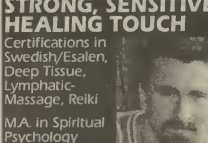




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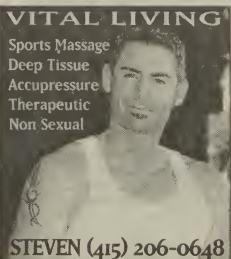
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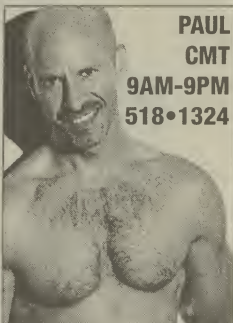
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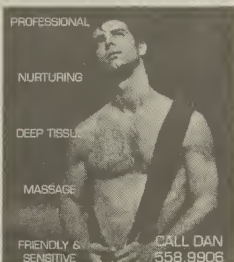


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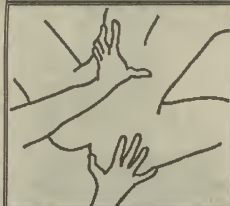
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Positive Force presents

Winter Party 2001

Join other poz men
for this one-of-a-kind event!



photo: Dailene Welde

mark your calendar...

Celebrate a spectacular year with this closing festivity.
A chance to reconnect with the men of Positive Force.
Whether you've come to an event or not, please join
us in this afternoon of free food, friends and
entertainment.

SAT | DEC 08 | 1 - 4 PM

JOHNFRANK

2100 Market St. @ Church & 14th

Featuring DJ Junkyard!

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